2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND READ

for brothers about brothers

April 1997
Vol. 1
No. 1

2ND SAY

a letter from our **Co-Chair**

Craig Washington

My brothers, my brothers, how far we have come! We come together some 150 strong every month come Sunday evening. We come together in love, in fellowship, in full appreciation of ourselves just as we are. We call ourselves by many names from "gay" to "bi-sexual" to "queer" to "queen" to "trade" to "adodi" but we are bound by one common identity as black men loving men. Our forefather Joseph Beam declared, "Black men loving black men is the revolutionary act!" As black men in America we are not supposed to love each other at all - regardless of sexual orientation. The very dearth of such love in these times is evidence of its prohibition. This is why it is so important that we realize the value of this special fraternity!

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While my eyes are focused upon our future, my soul looks back in wonder at our amazing growth. In addition to our increased ranks, we have launched official membership dollars. These funds will help us enjoy more social outings, more stimulating workshops and a retreat this year. We now have out own newsletter with which we can spread the info (and the dish) that you require more effectively than ever. Second Sunday has become an Atlanta institution, folks in L.A., D.C., and New York know about us. In May, we'll join ranks with our sister organization "ZAMI" to host a co-gender dance/fund-raiser. Our fierceness abounds! Ulester and I are blessed to serve another year as your Co-Chairman. We are proud to simply call you "brother".

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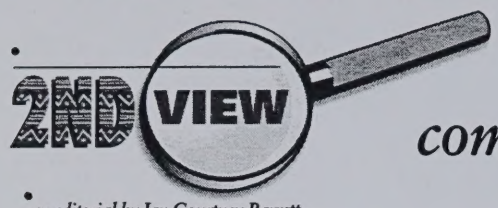
BROTHERS SP



coming out of our **Glass Closets**

an editorial by Ian Courtney Barrett

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So I took a hard look at the issue; the H in HIV stands for human, not punk or junkie, amoral or 'ho, just simply human. A qualification I could live with, so I did. A human virus whose conduit into my life was love.

Looking back, this knowledge gave me power. Power gave me responsibility and responsibility gave me respect myself, don't you think?

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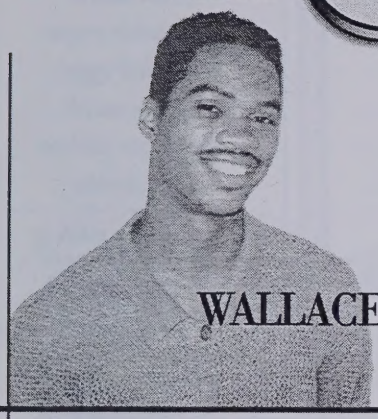

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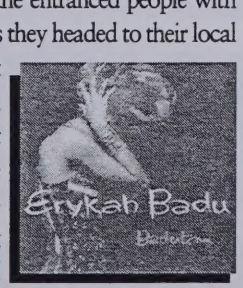
by Robert Hunter Simmons III

In this column, I'll be reviewing music. Both new stuff and not-so-new stuff that I really like. Since I have such a large appetite, musical that is, I will review a varied mix of music. I will also try and keep you abreast of the latest music and entertainment news. If there is any artists you would like me to share with the readers of 2nd Read, let me know. You can E-mail me @ RHS3@mindspring.com or mail in your responses to: Second Sunday • P.O. Box 310 • Atlanta, GA 30301

Enjoy, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Erykah Badu - Baduism

Badu....Badu....Badu....that's what the entranced people with their arms stretched out, chanted as they headed to their local record store to purchase the debut record by Erykah Badu. This child of the gods just seemed to burst out of no where to have a number one album with Baduism. I was definitely one of the people practicing Baduism after I heard this record. I have not stopped playing this CD since I got it. I play it while I'm getting ready for work. I play it in the car on my way to work. I play it morning, noon, and night. Needless to say I am in love with Erykah Badu, there is not a track on the record that I don't love. All I can say is if you don't have this CD you are definitely missing out. Erykah Badu is Billie Holiday reincarnated. She sounds so much like Billie Holiday it is unbelievable. My favorite track, if I had to pick just one, would be #8, "Certainly". This simple stripped down song with just an acoustic bass, a piano, and a drummer is heaven.



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Whitney Houston
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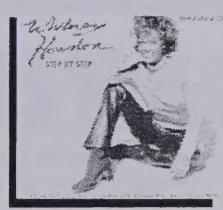

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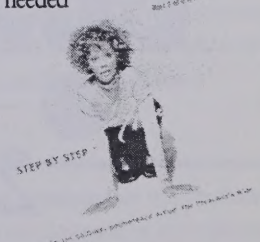
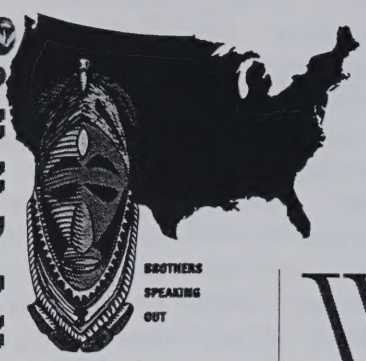
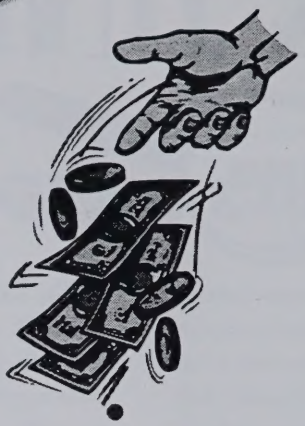


NEW LOCATION

2ND TOPIC





2ND SUNDAY

April 13, 1997

CITY HALL EAST
Pheonix Room

Where is our money going?

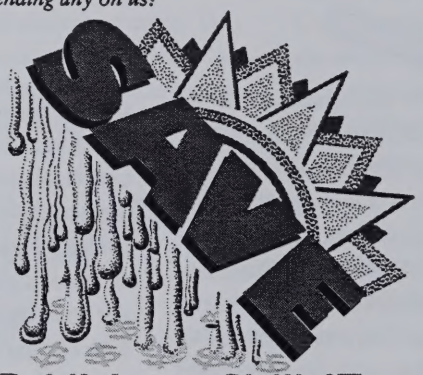
What are some positive ways gay black men can get together and make some money?

How do we begin to plan for the future, when we're bearly making it today?

We're spending our money at gay black clubs and bars, but are they spending any on us?

This and so much more.

Come ready to share your point of view on this issue, to listen and to be enlightened.



RAIN OR SHINE

"It's A Spring Thang"

Don't forget your potluck dish.

HOSPITALITY

POTLUCK THEME

"It's a Spring Thang"

finger sandwiches
fruit salad
vegetable trays
deviled eggs
jell-o-mold
casserole dishes
soft drinks

use these as a guide to your contribution to our potluck theme.

It's SHOW TIME

Palette of Diaspora:
a black mans experience

Benny Andrews
Carl Christian
Michael Ellison
Michael Morgan
Freddie Styles
Omar Thomas

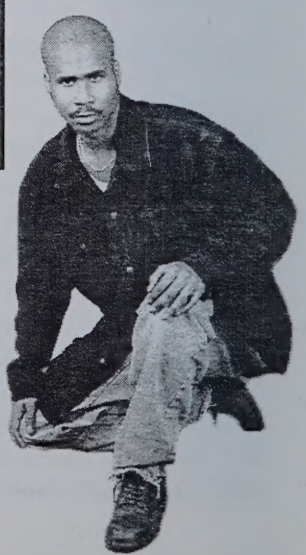
Gwinnett Fine Arts Center
Duluth, GA
Opening May 17, 1997
Gallery # 770.623.6002

CONGRATULATIONS

OUR *Terrell Smith*

2nd Sunday **Historian**

Terrell Smith accepted an award for 2nd Sunday, "Best Gay Organization" at the Entertainer of the Year Award Ceremony held at Lorretta's Night Club.



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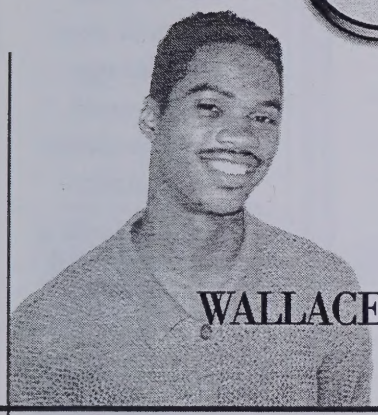

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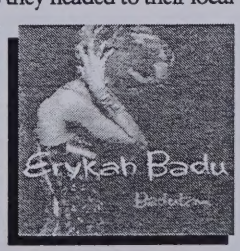

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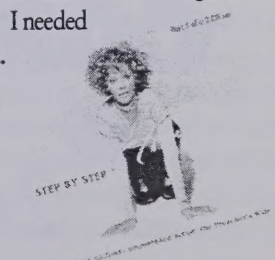
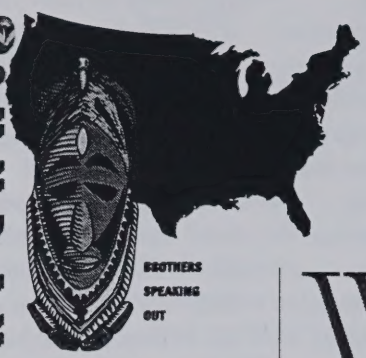


NEW LOCATION

2ND TOPIC



Where is our money going?

April 13, 1997

CITY HALL EAST
Phoenix Room

What are some positive ways gay black men can get together and make some money?

How do we begin to plan for the future, when we're bearly making it today?

We're spending our money at gay black clubs and bars, but are they spending any on us?

This and so much more.

Come ready to share your point of view on this issue, to listen and to be enlightened.

RAIN OR SHINE

"It's A Spring Thang"
Don't forget your potluck dish.

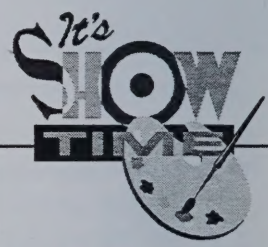
HOSPITALITY

POTLUCK THEME

"It's a Spring Thang"

finger sandwiches
fruit salad
vegetable trays
deviled eggs
jell-o-mold
casserole dishes
soft drinks

use these as a guide to your contribution to our potluck theme.



Palette of Diaspora:
a black mans experience

Benny Andrews
Carl Christian
Michael Ellison
Michael Morgan
Freddie Styles
Omar Thomas

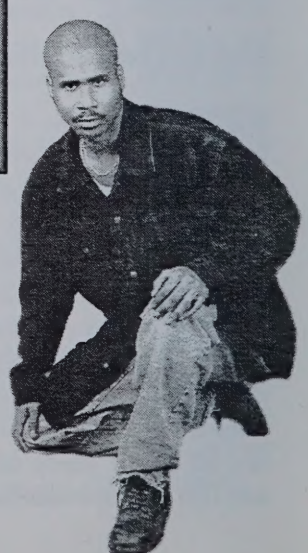
Gwinnett Fine Arts Center
Duluth, GA
Opening May 17, 1997
Gallery # 770.623.6002

CONGRATULATIONS

OUR *Terrell Smith*

2nd Sunday **Historian**

Terrell Smith accepted an award for 2nd Sunday, "Best Gay Organization" at the Entertainer of the Year Award Ceremony held at Lorretta's Night Club.



2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

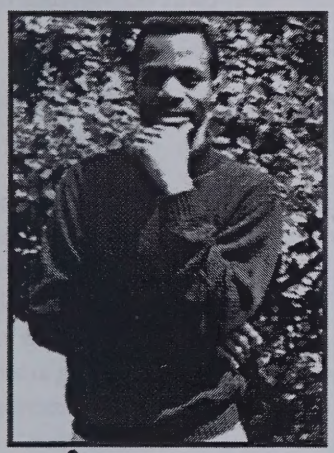
2ND READ

for brothers about brothers

May/June 1997
Vol. 1
No. 2

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
e-MAIL: secondsunday@mindspring.com

2ND SAY — *a letter from our* **Co-Chair**



Ulester Douglas

Of the many functions Second Sunday serves, I believe one of the most important is that it provides rare opportunities for us to build intimate relationships.

When I speak of intimate relationships, I am referring to friendships and/or partnerships in which there is honest sharing of each other's thoughts, feelings and experiences; where there is trust, love and caring; where each person risks vulnerability and growth; where we respect ourselves and each other.

As I reflect on some of the challenges we face, including coping with the loss of our loved ones, I am convinced of how vital these relationships are to building and maintaining healthy communities including Second Sunday. My invitation to you my brothers, is for you to take advantage of the opportunities our organization provides for you to form meaningful relationships. There are many ways to do this-I trust that you will use your imagination and creativity. One recommendation is to get involved with one of our standing or ad hoc committees (hospitality, finance, activities, membership, public relations, topic and workshop).

Whatever our approach, let's maintain our integrity and respect for our brother. Also, let us nurture an organizational culture in which it is acceptable to look to each other for love, friendship, partnership and family. If not at Second Sunday, where else?

advice **Column** — 2ND THOUGHT

Coming next issue, a new column, just for you. Need Advise? Have questions? Got comments or concerns? Words of wisdom or statements to offer? Send them to 2ndThought! at the 2nd Sunday PO Box. Submissions will be selected for future issues. We will attempt to respond to all submissions either in the newsletter or by direct letter to you. Enclose with your submission an address for reply.

2nd Thought! for MAY 1997 • Poem from Herbe Feconde (1973)

We are men of the new world a tree prompts us to harmony. A tree whose fruit is pulpy, It isn't a tree of good or evil but that of concupiscence. Whose fruit was flung on our shoulders at the dawn of our solicitude and ranged at evening in the freezing spaces of an infallible cuisine! The silence plays with us. And our aptitudes in this time seized with firmness rejoices at an audience stooped before the reason justice triumphantly brandishes. We are men of the intensest heat. Matter fashioned from resonance Multiplied souls Lanterns of immortal light Lands of unutterable representation

Joseph Miezan Bognini

Peace, longevity, and prosperity my brothers!

2nd Read is a newsletter headed by the **Public Relations Committee of 2nd Sunday**.
The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photographs of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person(s) or organization(s). If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at 404.325.7321.

BROTHERS

BROTHERS

2ND VIEW

my mother's **Special Gift**

reflections by Ian Courtney Barrett

In the late 1970's, Anita Bryant, Florida beauty/orange juice queen, was preaching her message of hate and damnation for gays and lesbians. As a 14 year old queen, it was a very emotional and chaotic for me. I had known for a long time that I was "different"; I'd had other students pick on me in school and call me faggot, fairy, sissy, girl, whatever. Also, I had the opportunity to play-around with other boys (smile).

During the summer of 1978, I was severely depressed about my abnormal feelings. I settled on two alternatives - end my life with pills and alcohol or tell my family the ugly secret. I picked the lesser of the two drastic options and came out tearfully to my mother.

My mother is a social worker. Her entire career had been dedicated to helping others in time of need. Surely, she would be able to help her son through this difficult time, I thought. Well, she didn't and, quite frankly, she couldn't. In working with others, my mother kept a professional distance that helped her to focus on the problem. In dealing with her son who was (and is) gay, it was too close for her to handle. Instead, she called the pastor and asked him for prayer, and she referred me to a clinical social worker so that I could be "cured".

Well, the prayers worked because I'm still alive today, and her leading me to God was her greatest gift. Therapy didn't "cure" me, but it became her special gift because it is a tool that I have used at various times in my life.

Yeah, yeah, yeah , I have family of origin issues. Yes, my childhood could have been better. I've had guilt and shame. Yes, I've lived with an ex-lover for a year after the break-up, and I've been known (in the very distant past) to say "my life is over if you leave me". I've worked on all of these issues in therapy.

Therapy has provided me with a trained professional who serves as a listener and a guide. This individual typically doesn't have a vested interest (like friends and family) in how I resolve my issues. Listening is the communication skill that many of us don't do very well. Webster's Dictionary indicates that to listen is "to pay attention to sound, to hear with thoughtful attention, to be alert to catch an unexpected sound." I've found that having and paying someone to listen to me has been effective because it has forced me to solve my own problems. Nobody knows my situation better that me, and after a little encouragement by the therapist, and lot of moaning, groaning, crying and whining on my part, I've always come up with an alternative that I can live with.

On the wall of my current therapist's office there is a sign that reads:

"Those who go to psychotherapy are the wisest and most courageous among us. Everyone has problems, but what we often do is to try to pretend that these problems don't exist or we run away from these problems, or ignore them in some other way. It's only the wiser and braver among us who are willing to submit ourselves to the difficult process of self-examination that happens in a psycho-therapist's office."
There is a variety of therapists in Atlanta, that cater to Black gay men. If you're interested, ask around, evaluate your findings, and select someone with whom you can work. Or, my therapist is always accepting new clients!

2ND HEALTH

Carlos Cordero

I just had an AIDS test. How accurate are these test? I heard there are two tests. Is one better than the other?

Let me begin by saying that the AIDS test is really a test that measures the antibodies to HIV, not AIDS itself. HIV is the virus widely believed to be the cause of AIDS. When your body gets infected your defense system or immune system lead the attack, the soldiers on the defense team are called White blood cells. The white blood cells that lead the attack are t-cells and b-cells. T-cells are the ones that do the fighting and the b-cells or memory cells are the ones that make a record of the incident. This record helps your body identify the virus or bacteria so that in future infections you are better able to size up your enemy and dispose of it more efficiently.

These records produced by the b-cells are called antibodies. They are basically pictures your body makes of an infection. Antibody tests measure the presence of these pictures of the virus, thus denoting infection. Since pictures take time to develop, antibodies aren't present immediatley after infection. They actually take 6-8 weeks to develop in most people. That is why doctors advise testing after 6 months to make sure you have covered this "window period" entirely.

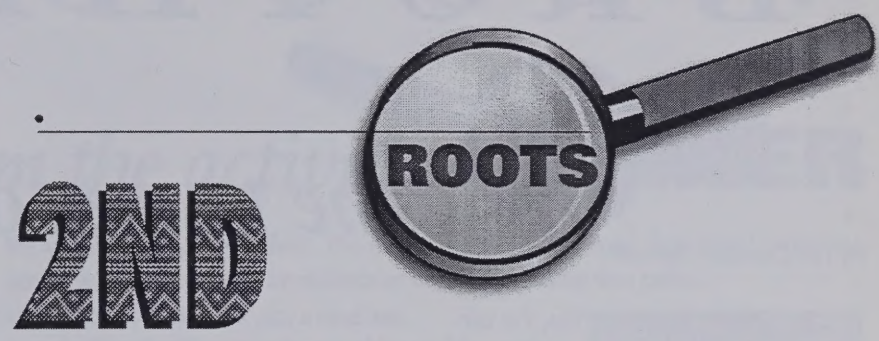
The test is done in two steps. First they perform the ELISA test. The ELISA test is like the mental detector in an airport . It sounds an alarm for any metal, even though the purpose is the find weapons. The ELISA rings when anything similiar to HIV antibodies shows up. It doesn't necessarily mean there is HIV infection, it just says we need to do a "hand search". This "hand search" is the Western Blot test. The Western Blot test actually looks for the pictures (antibodies) of HIV. Without a Western Blot confirmation, no one in the US can be diagnosed as HIV positive solely on an ELISA test. It's like saying you are carrying a gun just because the metal detector went off.

WORKING TOGETHER

by second brother

It was nearly five years ago that my best friend and I tripped to D.C. for a weekend rendezvous. No holiday, just some free time and money to spend. I do not remember who hipped us to the "talk show" that had become so popular there it had to be relocated from its original spot to a local club. However, I do remember walking into that club that Sunday afternoon and into a sea of men. African-American men. Afro-American men. Black men. Negro men. Perhaps even Colored - we were of every hue of the earth-tone palette, after all. I thought, "this is so unbelievable". So tremendous a feeling; to see sexy, good-looking, professional, conscious, hardworking men in the light rather than the normal dimly-lit, smoking, obscurity of the club.

We found two adjoining seats - there were close to 200 men - and discovered the evening's topic- "Light-skinned vs. Dark-skinned: Who do we choose to date?" What an appropriate topic observing the array of coloring present? The set -up for the dialogue was similar to a t.v. talk show with a host, panel and of course, - the sea of men in the audience. As the dialogues and opinions began to fly, I do not remenber who looked at who first to say"we can do this in Atlanta," but it was definitely said and agreed upon.



We both sat attentively, talking in all of the morsels of information, imagery, stimuli and how-to's that we could. I could not help but drift into the future when I would witness such in Hot'lanta. Pride began to swell inside.

Fast forward four months. I remember when my friend called to say it was time for us to get our show together. We needed an organizing meeting, perhaps on a Sunday evening at his apartment. (Sundays were free after church) We listed "conscious" friends we thought would appreciate such an idea, identifying ten brothers to invite. We decided to prepare a small layout of hors oeuvres and drinks, have an agenda and let one of us (him most likely) facilitate the discussion. (Sounds familiar? It should)

As I recall, using memory that dims more each day, seven were in attendence that evening on the second Sunday in January, 1993. It was cold outside; the fireplace was lit. We hugged and greeted each other warmly (as we always seem to) as coats were hung. We did intros, everyone becoming as old friends quickly. We agreed, disagreed, laughed and learned. (Sound familiar? It should)

We made decisions that day: to keep the meeting day consistent, meet once a month, rotate from home to home, invite other friends, mail monthly notices, have an agenda,bring potluck dishes, keep a code of ethics and so on. After a couple of hours bonding, decision-making and snacking, we winded down. But oh, what would we call this new gay initiative?

After several minutes of tossing and throwing out ideas, I blurted out " How about Second Sunday?" I mean, it was second Sunday and the name would remind us of our meetings. It was also nondescript, so even we "still-in-the-closet-homos" could receive info while safe-keeping anonymity. And it was catchy and alliterative. It worked to Second Sunday Mens's Discussion Group.

That was then and I am proud to say that I took part in what has grown into its legacy. That same feeling of pride that I felt five years earlier was present when I walked into the Phoenix Room of City Hall East on Sunday, April 13, 1997. And even though four years of countless second Sundays and frank discussions have passed and I still maintain a proverbial closet, hopefully, the daring has paid off and what easliy could have been a forgettable Sunday in D.C. has revolutionized life in Atlanta for men of African descent, colored and otherwise, Peace!

BROTHERS

my mother's **Special Gift**

reflections by Ian Courtney Barrett

In the late 1970's, Anita Bryant, Florida beauty/orange juice queen, was preaching her message of hate and damnation for gays and lesbians. As a 14 year old queen, it was a very emotional and chaotic for me. I had known for a long time that I was "different"; I'd had other students pick on me in school and call me faggot, fairy, sissy, girl, whatever. Also, I had the opportunity to play-around with other boys (smile).

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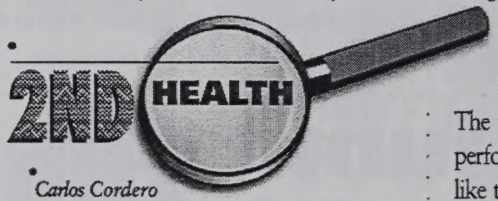

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BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT!!

2ND VIEW — *the power of* **CHOICE**

by Ian Courtney Barrett

"Am I dating?", you ask. "No, I'm taking a break from those activities", I say. The truth is that I've been forced out of the dating game that I and other Black men play.

Dating Black Men in Atlanta is the same as it is everywhere. We're all suffering from the "grass is always greener on the other side" syndrome. It goes like this:

"Baby, I like you and I want to be with you. However, I want to be free and easy just in case something better comes along.

He may be finer, richer, taller, shorter, skinner, fatter. He may be younger, older, have a longer dick or a shorter dick He may drive a fancier car, have a better job, have an MBA, MD, JD, DDS, or PhD. He may be codependent and wants me to carry his emotional baggage, or he may not have a job, but wants to hold my car and cruise Piedmont Park every day.

Baby, I want you to stand by me as I use you as a substitute until Mr. Right comes along. Will you do that for me baby?"

Mr. Right. Who is that? We're looking for perfection in a world that isn't perfect. We're unwilling to make choices in a world that demands that choices be made. We make choices every day as to where we work, where we live, what we eat, what we wear, what we drive, and who we include in our inner circle. We make choices all the time, so why aren't we willing to do so in dating?

African American Gay men, including me, should exercise The Power of Choice. With power in our hands, we can decide to date men of quality. Choosing doesn't equal perfection. It means taking the time to rationally decide what we want, and prepare ourselves emotionally and spiritually for dating.

If we don't choose, we end up being powerless in dating other Black Gay men. We become dating victims instead of dating victors. We spend night after night on the walls of Loretta's and the World Club awaiting perfection, which never comes. Instead we should be linking up with our Black brothers who we know aren't perfect, but who are good for us. We should accept them, like they should accept us - faults and all.

An African proverb says "He who hunts two rats, catches none." Brothers, we've been hunting every rat in town and catching nothing. The Power of Choice? The choice is ours.

2ND HEALTH — *how safe is* **ORAL SEX**

Carlos Cordero

Oral sex for those who may be confused is the art, excuse me, the act of sucking another man's cock. This has been the $64.00 question The answer is that infection can happen through unprotected oral sex. Before I continue on this subject, sucking will be based on it being unprotected (without condoms) and without ejaculation (cumming).

Many studies have been done and infection has occurred. One thing for certain is that it is not easy to get it orally as it is through butt fucking. Why/Saliva. No, no, no, saliva does not kill the virus.

How/HIV's weapon for infection is a sugar coating. The virus is covered by a sugar coated protein called gluco-protein 160 (sugar-protein) that when your immune system goes to attack, the t-cells get stuck to the virus and the virus is able to do its dirty deed. Saliva dissolves sugars as part of the digestive process. So that HIV, stripped of its sugar coat is rendered vulnerable to your immune system's attack. This is one main reason you see lesbians with HIV not from each other but from having sex with men or through sharing needles, since their sex is mostly oral.

There are many variables that play the odds against us. Sores, cuts, even brushing our teeth leave openings in our mouths, but our front line of defense in the mouth is saliva.

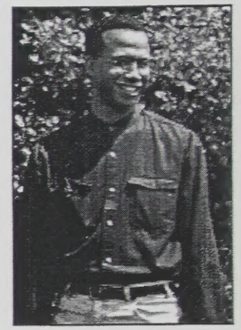
This brings me to the last part, YOU. How do you have sex? Do you need to have a drink, or a smoke to relax and get your groove on? If you do be aware that alcohol and/or pot makes your mouth dry (cotton mouth) and this increases the chances that sucking may be of higher risk than it would be if you had the natural protection od saliva.

Nothing is 100% safe. Sucking with a condom is the safets way we know. We also know that most suck without condoms and there are risks in doing that. Hopefully we are able to help you better understand the things that are working on your side. Staying healthy is a priority and knowing how to stay there is our responsibility.
Peace.

2ND AGENDA — *from the activities* **CORNER**

By Keith Warrick

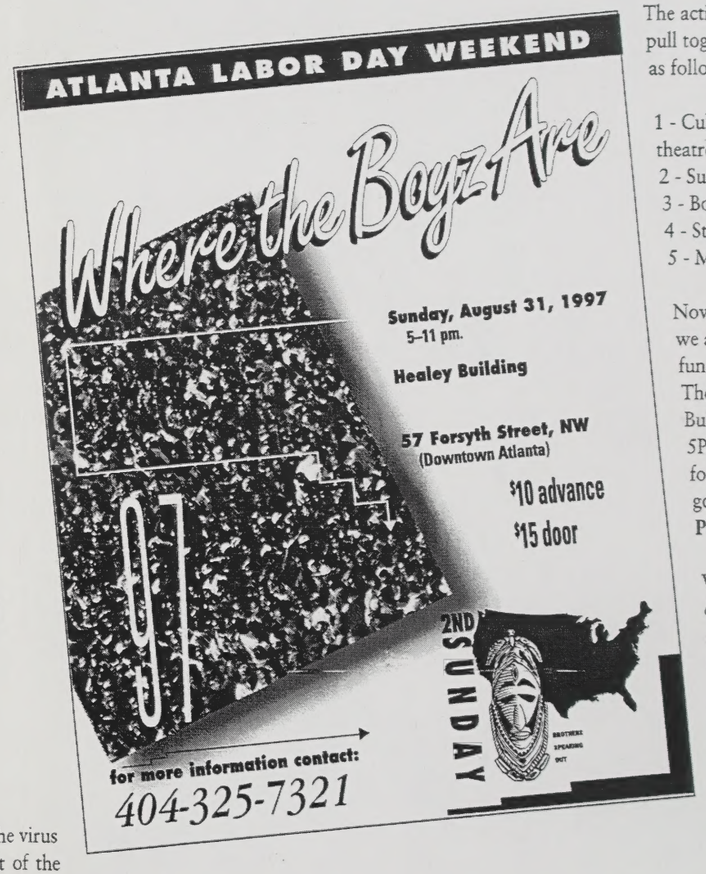
We asked and you responded! The results are in for the recent Activities Committee survey where everyone in attendance at the April meeting was polled.



The activities that you would most like us to pull together for the remainder of the year are as follows in rank order:

1 - Cultural Activities (i.e., book readings, theatre & musuem outings)
2 - Sunday Brunch
3 - Bowling Night
4 - Stoned Soul Picnics
5 - Movie Nights

Now of course, we are going to party, to, so we are proud to announce the second annual *'Where the Boys Are 97'* fundraiser to be held Labor Day weekend on Sunday August 31, 1997. The place: Healey Building in downtown Atlanta located at 57 Forsyth Street. The time: 5PM to 11PM. This year's event is a Tea Dance. We have three levels for you and yours to move, groove and get your freak on! Tickets go on sale at the June meeting immediately following the discussion. **Put your orders in now!**

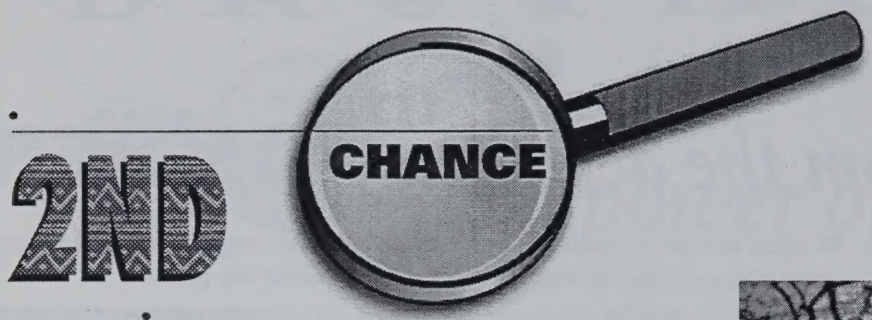


We will have numerous mini fund raisers before this event to help defray our expenses for this premier event so we are counting on your support! Mark your calendars now for Saturday June 28th when we have our first *'Bare Bones'* Party to start our fund raising!

Remember to stop by the Activities Committee table in June to get your advance tickets for Labor Day. $10.00 in advance and $15.00 at the door!

Peace,

BROTHERS SHARING



By Malik M.L. Williams

Several years ago, a friend introduced me to an attractive and personable man. My soon-to-be fling and I talked for an hour, negotiated the exchange of phone numbers for future reference, went back to his place, and had sex. Neither of us mentioned condoms, "safer sex," or the life-threatening situation in which we both might have been placing ourselves. During the following three months, we got together on occasion to "work it out." We protected ourselves without exception after that first time, and we never mentioned the danger of our initial encounter. We were okay; why talk about it?

Not so many years ago, a friend called me to tell me that my former fling was "sick." I called the last good number I had for him. I told myself that I was calling to offer support, to lend an ear. I suppressed the questions lurking in the back of my mind: "How long had he known? Was it before we...?" The operator-recording on the phone interrupted to tell me that I had been out of touch for too long. My former fling had moved. I hung up and went about my business. I was okay; why worry about it?

A few years ago, a friend ran into me at the mall. He asked if anyone had told me about my former fling's death. I listened to his description of the memorial service, thanked him, and went home to sit in silence. I tried not to think about the risk I had invited into my life. I tried not to think about the death of the man who had never found the courage to name his disease. I was okay; why think about it? Last year a friend confided in me that he had never been "... you know-tested." I smiled as I reported that my most recent test, like the last four or five before it, had been negative. I told my friend about the man who had been my former fling, whose death had taught me that I was wasting too much energy trying not to think, not to know. Because he was my friend, I asked him to get himself tested. I told him I had been blessed with a second chance, but not everyone would be, and that everybody needed to know what they were dealing with. Positive or negative, there were thousands of opportunities to be okay; why wonder about it?

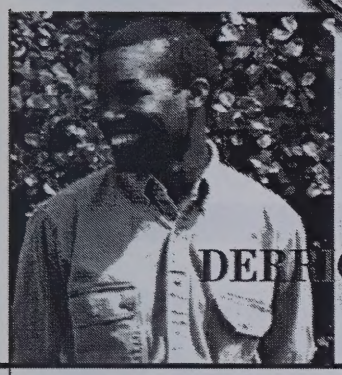
This year-1997-another friend died in silence and solitude. With all the options for diagnosis, treatment and support available today, I don't understand how it could have happened. I imagine the numbers of brothers this year and next year who will sit and wish themselves safe without doing the simple things to make themselves safe. I sometimes wish I could force all my brothers-positive and negative-to find out what they can do for themselves.

We're not all dealing with it; we're not all okay. Why lie about it?

Malik M.L. Williams is a member of The Adodi Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble/ An Outsiders' Collective, a member of the board of In The Life Atlanta, and a member of Second Sunday's Topic Committee.

THEIR THOUGHTS

2ND BRO.



DERRICK REESE

an interview by Edwin Maurice Cook

EC: I understand that you have not been in Atlanta long. What are your feelings about the city and what influenced your decision to move here?

DR: I am happy to be here in Atlanta. It was important for me to live in a place that had a large black population and a large gay population. Luckily I found both here.

EC: How would you define yourself in terms of sexuality?

DR: An out black gay male.

EC: How do you define out?

DR: The people important to me know about my sexuality. This includes blood relatives as well as close friends. I am also out in my workplace.

EC: When did you recognize that you were gay?

DR: Well I guess I always knew but, didn't know what to call it. My earliest memory was walking with my sisters in the third grade and discussing the boys I thought were attractive. When my sister gasped, I felt something was different.

EC: At this point in your life, where do you see yourself?

DR: I have reached a point of stability. Now I would like to start laying the foundation of the things I would like to accomplsh in life.

EC: And that being?

DR: Going back to school to receive my doctorate in Public Health and to one day run a health department.

EC: What is your opinion of Second Sunday?

DR: I only have one issue with 2nd Sunday, that's how the group defines the people it serves.

EC: Would you explain this further?

DR: My preference would've been to have the group's name to serve the black gay, bi, trans population as opposed to using men of African descent. I have a fear of using "Politically Correct Language" we may do ourselves more harm than good.

EC: What significance does Second Sunday have for you?

DR: It provides a safe space for black gay men to share experiences. It has allowed me to develop close friendships with people I feel will be there for me, and with me relatively new in the city that's a wonderful thing.

EC: Speaking of relationships are you currently seeing anyone?

DR: I'm dating, but I am not in a relationship.

EC: Would you have a problem dating someone outside your race or someone who may be HIV positive?

DR: I have dated outside my race. I don't see it as a barrier. I have found it to be more difficult to be in a relatioship with a white man. To my knowledge I have not dated anyone HIV positive, but that would not be a problem for me.

EC: What are some problems you've experienced in dating?

DR: TRUST, I find it difficult to be open and to trust in someone.

EC: What do you think is the biggest problem facing the black gay community?

DR: Silence without a doubt. We don't talk to each other about issues affecting us.

EC: What are your fears?

DR: Not making a difference in the things I choose to do in life. Fear of not being good and smart enough. This fear is deep rooted and ones I have carried since childhood.

EC: How have the issue of HIV/AIDS affected you?

DR: Recently it has touched my life in a personal way. Learning about people who are close to me who have either become infected or passed away, has caused some level of anxiety and a great degree of sadness.

2ND NOTES

Black Lesbian and Gay Poets Society

presents

speakfire

your host *Tony Daniels*

All Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Artists are Welcomed

OPEN MIC

Saturday June 21, 1997
828 West Peachtree Street
AIDS Survival Project

$5.00 donation requested

8:30 pm.–9:00 pm. sign up
9:00 pm.–11:00 pm. open mic
for additional information
contact: 404.881.1985

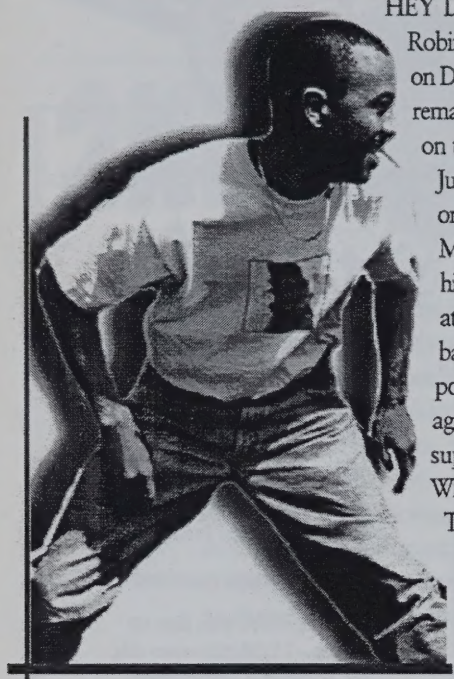
poets, rappers, singers, dancers, visual artists

Palette of Diaspora:
a black mans experience

Benny Andrews
Carl Christian
Michael Ellison
Michael Morgan
Freddie Styles
Omar Thomas

Gwinnett Fine Arts Center
Duluth, GA
Gallery # 770.623.6002

2ND SPIN *rob's* **Review**



HEY DID YOU HERE...En Vogue member Dawn Robinson has left the group to go solo. She has signed on Dr. Dre's new label to record "Ghetto Metal," The remaining members are putting the finishing touches on their new album entitled EV3, which is due out June 17th. Check them out on Saturday Night live on May 17th...Martin is being canceled (finally,) Martin Lawrence says he wants to concentrate on his movie career, the final one hour episode will air at the end of May...Halle Berry has entered the battle with Whitney and Janet, to be the first to portray Dorothy Dandridge on film, Halle has agreed to portray Dorothy in an HBO film that is supposed to air sometime before Christmas... Whitney's next film is to be a remake of the 1974 TV movie "Get Christie Love", the story of a beautiful policewoman who goes undercover to expose that she really can't act...Michael Jackson has a new album "Blood on the Dance Floor-HIStory In the Mix-book 1," due out May 22nd, The album will contain four new tracks and remixes from HIStory, including the first single "Blood on the Dance Floor" which is reviewed below.

REVIEWS

Love Jones - the Music

Wow! This soundtrack is jam packed with incredible artists and music. Dionne Farris, Lauryn Hill, Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Maxwell, Cassandra Wilson, Groove Theory, and the list goes on and on. The new comer Trina Brousasard, sang the hell out of Minnie Ripperton's song "Inside My Love," but I found myself wishing that I were listening to the ever-so-missed Chante' Moore, whom Brousasard brings to mind. Siedha Garrett did a great job as the new front vocalist of the Brand New Heavies, replacing the recently departed N'Dea Davenport, who I hear is now doing back up vocals for some local unsigned band. I know that I will probably be stoned to death for saying this, but what the hell, I loved Xscape's rendition of "In the Rain." Despite their reported internal feuding, they still manage to sound great together. I was truly moved when I heard Cassandra Wilson work her magic, maybe now she will be appreciated as the DIVA she is. So, go out get a copy of Love Jones-the Music, and get your grove on with your love jones, I know I did.

Mary J. Blige - Share My World

The Queen has returned!!! Usually after I listen to a new Mary J. record, I am left with this feeling that I have heard these songs before. Then it hits me: I have heard these songs before, just on somebody else's record. This time was different for me. Don't misunderstand; she still gives you the samples and her traditional remakes, but they just did not seem to evoke that same feeling for me. After listening to this record a couple of times, the music started to sink in, and I started to feel the passion that Mary put into this record. There are several tracks that standout to me, but there are two tracks in particular that really move me. The first is a Babyface track "Missing You;" Mary J. was destined to SANG this song, and SANG it she does. This track has smash hit written all through it, and it once again proves Babyface's genius. He was able to construct a song that was perfectly suited for Mary J.. Once I was able to move on from this track, I discovered the incredible "Seven Days." Mary cuts loose on this one. Mary I just want to tell you that I love you, and thank for this incredible record, but in the future pick songs to remake that you can actually sing. Oh yeah, just so you know, songs that you can sing do not include anything by Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and I guess not even Natalie Cole.

Michael Jackson - Blood on the Dance Floor

After listening to this song I can see that Michael picked the perfect name, because there was blood on the dance floor, MINE, because Michael was killing me with this song. I guess Ms. Jackson thinks that since he is the "King of Pop," people will automatically love what ever little song he decides to throw together-well that is not the case. The best thing about the "Blood on the Dance Floor" CD5 was the remix of "Dangerous." I really think Michael needs to get out more to meet some new people, because I am sick of hearing about Annie. Who the hell is she anyway? Pick this one up if you must, but please be careful, because it can cause bleeding.

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

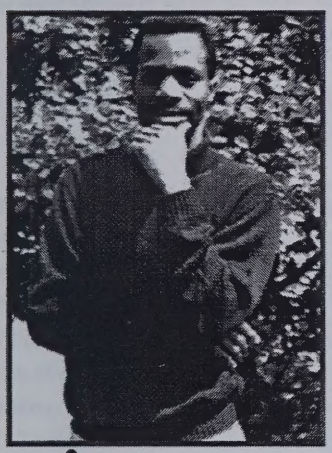
2ND READ

for brothers about brothers

May/June 1997
Vol. 1
No. 2

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
e-MAIL: secondsunday@mindspring.com

2ND SAY — *a letter from our* **Co-Chair**



Ulester Douglas

Of the many functions Second Sunday serves, I believe one of the most important is that it provides rare opportunities for us to build intimate relationships.

When I speak of intimate relationships, I am referring to friendships and/or partnerships in which there is honest sharing of each other's thoughts, feelings and experiences; where there is trust, love and caring; where each person risks vulnerability and growth; where we respect ourselves and each other.

As I reflect on some of the challenges we face, including coping with the loss of our loved ones, I am convinced of how vital these relationships are to building and maintaining healthy communities-including Second Sunday. My invitation to you my brothers, is for you to take advantage of the opportunities our organization provides for you to form meaningful relationships. There are many ways to do this-I trust that you will use your imagination and creativity. One recommendation is to get involved with one of our standing or ad hoc committees (hospitality, finance, activities, membership, public relations, topic and workshop).

Whatever our approach, let's maintain our integrity and respect for our brother. Also, let us nurture an organizational culture in which it is acceptable to look to each other for love, friendship, partnership and family. If not at Second Sunday, where else?

advice **Column** — 2ND THOUGHT

Coming next issue, a new column, just for you. Need Advise? Have questions? Got comments or concerns? Words of wisdom or statements to offer? Send them to 2ndThought! at the 2nd Sunday PO Box. Submissions will be selected for future issues. We will attempt to respond to all submissions either in the newsletter or by direct letter to you. Enclose with your submission an address for reply.

2nd Thought! for MAY 1997 • Poem from Herbe Feconde (1973)

We are men of the new world a tree prompts us to harmony. A tree whose fruit is pulpy, It isn't a tree of good or evil but that of concupiscence. Whose fruit was flung on our shoulders at the dawn of our solicitude and ranged at evening in the freezing spaces of an infallible cuisine! The silence plays with us. And our aptitudes in this time seized with firmness rejoices at an audience stooped before the reason justice triumphantly brandishes. We are men of the intensest heat. Matter fashioned from resonance Multiplied souls Lanterns of immortal light Lands of unutterable representation

Joseph Miezan Bognini

Peace, longevity, and prosperity my brothers!

2nd Read is a newsletter headed by the **Public Relations Committee of 2nd Sunday.** The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photographs of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person(s) or organization(s). If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at 404.325.7321.

BROTHERS

BROTHERS

my mother's **Special Gift**

reflections by Ian Courtney Barrett

In the late 1970's, Anita Bryant, Florida beauty/orange juice queen, was preaching her message of hate and damnation for gays and lesbians. As a 14 year old queen, it was a very emotional and chaotic for me. I had known for a long time that I was "different"; I'd had other students pick on me in school and call me faggot, fairy, sissy, girl, whatever. Also, I had the opportunity to play-around with other boys (smile).

During the summer of 1978, I was severely depressed about my abnormal feelings. I settled on two alternatives - end my life with pills and alcohol or tell my family the ugly secret. I picked the lesser of the two drastic options and came out tearfully to my mother.

My mother is a social worker. Her entire career had been dedicated to helping others in time of need. Surely, she would be able to help her son through this difficult time, I thought. Well, she didn't and, quite frankly, she couldn't. In working with others, my mother kept a professional distance that helped her to focus on the problem. In dealing with her son who was (and is) gay, it was too close for her to handle. Instead, she called the pastor and asked him for prayer, and she referred me to a clinical social worker so that I could be "cured".

Well, the prayers worked because I'm still alive today, and her leading me to God was her greatest gift. Therapy didn't "cure" me, but it became her special gift because it is a tool that I have used at various times in my life.

Yeah, yeah, yeah , I have family of origin issues. Yes, my childhood could have been better. I've had guilt and shame. Yes, I've lived with an ex-lover for a year after the break-up, and I've been known (in the very distant past) to say "my life is over if you leave me". I've worked on all of these issues in therapy.

Therapy has provided me with a trained professional who serves as a listener and a guide. This individual typically doesn't have a vested interest (like friends and family) in how I resolve my issues. Listening is the communication skill that many of us don't do very well. Webster's Dictionary indicates that to listen is "to pay attention to sound, to hear with thoughtful attention, to be alert to catch an unexpected sound." I've found that having and paying someone to listen to me has been effective because it has forced me to solve my own problems. Nobody knows my situation better that me, and after a little encouragement by the therapist, and lot of moaning, groaning, crying and whining on my part, I've always come up with an alternative that I can live with.

On the wall of my current therapist's office there is a sign that reads:

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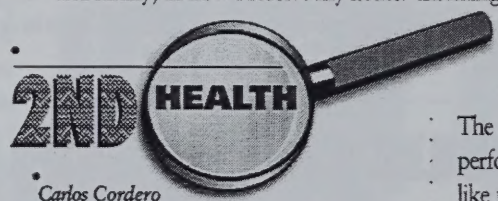
There is a variety of therapists in Atlanta, that cater to Black gay men. If you're interested, ask around, evaluate your findings, and select someone with whom you can work. Or, my therapist is always accepting new clients!



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I just had an AIDS test. How accurate are these test? I heard there are two tests. Is one better than the other?

Let me begin by saying that the AIDS test is really a test that measures the antibodies to HIV, not AIDS itself. HIV is the virus widely believed to be the cause of AIDS. When your body gets infected your defense system or immune system lead the attack, the soldiers on the defense team are called White blood cells. The white blood cells that lead the attack are t-cells and b-cells. T-cells are the ones that do the fighting and the b-cells or memory cells are the ones that make a record of the incident. This record helps your body identify the virus or bacteria so that in future infections you are better able to size up your enemy and dispose of it more efficiently.

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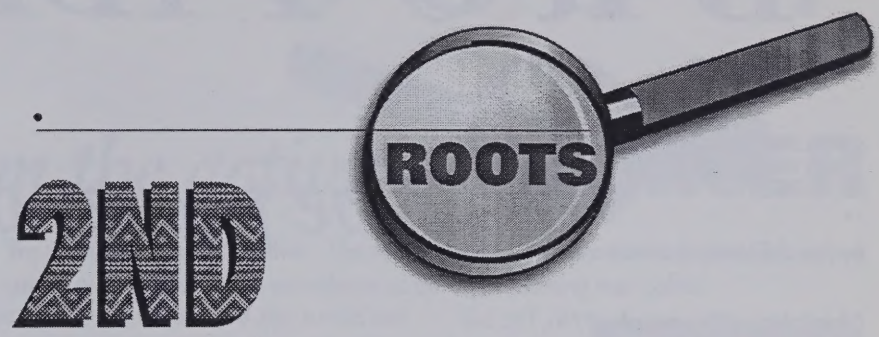
WORKING TOGETHER



by second brother

It was nearly five years ago that my best friend and I tripped to D.C. for a weekend rendezvous. No holiday, just some free time and money to spend. I do not remember who hipped us to the "talk show" that had become so popular there it had to be relocated from its original spot to a local club. However, I do remember walking into that club that Sunday afternoon and into a sea of men. African-American men. Afro-American men. Black men. Negro men. Perhaps even Colored - we were of every hue of the earth-tone palette, after all. I thought, "this is so unbelievable". So tremendous a feeling; to see sexy, good-looking, professional, conscious, hardworking men in the light rather than the normal dimly-lit, smoking, obscurity of the club.

We found two adjoining seats - there were close to 200 men - and discovered the evening's topic- "Light-skinned vs. Dark-skinned: Who do we choose to date?" What an appropriate topic observing the array of coloring present? The set -up for the dialogue was similar to a t.v. talk show with a host, panel and of course, - the sea of men in the audience. As the dialogues and opinions began to fly, I do not remenber who looked at who first to say"we can do this in Atlanta," but it was definitely said and agreed upon.

We both sat attentively, talking in all of the morsels of information, imagery, stimuli and how-to's that we could. I could not help but drift into the future when I would witness such in Hot'lanta. Pride began to swell inside.

Fast forward four months. I remember when my friend called to say it was time for us to get our show together. We needed an organizing meeting, perhaps on a Sunday evening at his apartment. (Sundays were free after church) We listed "conscious" friends we thought would appreciate such an idea, identifying ten brothers to invite. We decided to prepare a small layout of hors oeuvres and drinks, have an agenda and let one of us (him most likely) facilitate the discussion. (Sounds familiar? It should)

As I recall, using memory that dims more each day, seven were in attendence that evening on the second Sunday in January, 1993. It was cold outside; the fireplace was lit. We hugged and greeted each other warmly (as we always seem to) as coats were hung. We did intros, everyone becoming as old friends quickly. We agreed, disagreed, laughed and learned. (Sound familiar? It should)

We made decisions that day: to keep the meeting day consistent, meet once a month, rotate from home to home, invite other friends, mail monthly notices, have an agenda,bring potluck dishes, keep a code of ethics and so on. After a couple of hours bonding, decision-making and snacking, we winded down. But oh, what would we call this new gay initiative?

After several minutes of tossing and throwing out ideas, I blurted out " How about Second Sunday?" I mean, it was second Sunday and the name would remind us of our meetings. It was also nondescript, so even we "still-in-the-closet-homos" could receive info while safe-keeping anonymity. And it was catchy and alliterative. It worked to Second Sunday Mens's Discussion Group.

That was then and I am proud to say that I took part in what has grown into its legacy. That same feeling of pride that I felt five years earlier was present when I walked into the Phoenix Room of City Hall East on Sunday, April 13, 1997. And even though four years of countless second Sundays and frank discussions have passed and I still maintain a proverbial closet, hopefully, the daring has paid off and what easliy could have been a forgettable Sunday in D.C. has revolutionized life in Atlanta for men of African descent, colored and otherwise, Peace!

BROTHERS

2ND VIEW

my mother's **Special Gift**

reflections by Ian Courtney Barrett

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BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT!!

2ND VIEW — *the power of* **CHOICE**

by Ian Courtney Barrett

"Am I dating?", you ask. "No, I'm taking a break from those activities", I say. The truth is that I've been forced out of the dating game that I and other Black men play.

Dating Black Men in Atlanta is the same as it is everywhere. We're all suffering from the "grass is always greener on the other side" syndrome. It goes like this:

"Baby, I like you and I want to be with you. However, I want to be free and easy just in case something better comes along.

He may be finer, richer, taller, shorter, skinner, fatter. He may be younger, older, have a longer dick or a shorter dick He may drive a fancier car, have a better job, have an MBA, MD, JD, DDS, or PhD. He may be codependent and wants me to carry his emotional baggage, or he may not have a job, but wants to hold my car and cruise Piedmont Park every day.

Baby, I want you to stand by me as I use you as a substitute until Mr. Right comes along. Will you do that for me baby?"

Mr. Right. Who is that? We're looking for perfection in a world that isn't perfect. We're unwilling to make choices in a world that demands that choices be made. We make choices every day as to where we work, where we live, what we eat, what we wear, what we drive, and who we include in our inner circle. We make choices all the time, so why aren't we willing to do so in dating?

African American Gay men, including me, should exercise The Power of Choice. With power in our hands, we can decide to date men of quality. Choosing doesn't equal perfection. It means taking the time to rationally decide what we want, and prepare ourselves emotionally and spiritually for dating.

If we don't choose, we end up being powerless in dating other Black Gay men. We become dating victims instead of dating victors. We spend night after night on the walls of Loretta's and the World Club awaiting perfection, which never comes. Instead we should be linking up with our Black brothers who we know aren't perfect, but who are good for us. We should accept them, like they should accept us - faults and all.

An African proverb says "He who hunts two rats, catches none." Brothers, we've been hunting every rat in town and catching nothing. The Power of Choice? The choice is ours.

2ND HEALTH — *how safe is* **ORAL SEX**

Carlos Cordero

Oral sex for those who may be confused is the art, excuse me, the act of sucking another man's cock. This has been the $64.00 question The answer is that infection can happen through unprotected oral sex. Before I continue on this subject, sucking will be based on it being unprotected (without condoms) and without ejaculation (cumming).

Many studies have been done and infection has occurred. One thing for certain is that it is not easy to get it orally as it is through butt fucking. Why/Saliva. No, no, no, saliva does not kill the virus.

How/HIV's weapon for infection is a sugar coating. The virus is covered by a sugar coated protein called gluco-protein 160 (sugar-protein) that when your immune system goes to attack, the t-cells get stuck to the virus and the virus is able to do its dirty deed. Saliva dissolves sugars as part of the digestive process. So that HIV, stripped of its sugar coat is rendered vulnerable to your immune system's attack. This is one main reason you see lesbians with HIV not from each other but from having sex with men or through sharing needles, since their sex is mostly oral.

There are many variables that play the odds against us. Sores, cuts, even brushing our teeth leave openings in our mouths, but our front line of defense in the mouth is saliva.

This brings me to the last part, YOU. How do you have sex? Do you need to have a drink, or a smoke to relax and get your groove on? If you do be aware that alcohol and/or pot makes your mouth dry (cotton mouth) and this increases the chances that sucking may be of higher risk than it would be if you had the natural protection od saliva.

Nothing is 100% safe. Sucking with a condom is the safets way we know. We also know that most suck without condoms and there are risks in doing that. Hopefully we are able to help you better understand the things that are working on your side. Staying healthy is a priority and knowing how to stay there is our responsibility.
Peace.

2ND AGENDA — *from the activities* **CORNER**

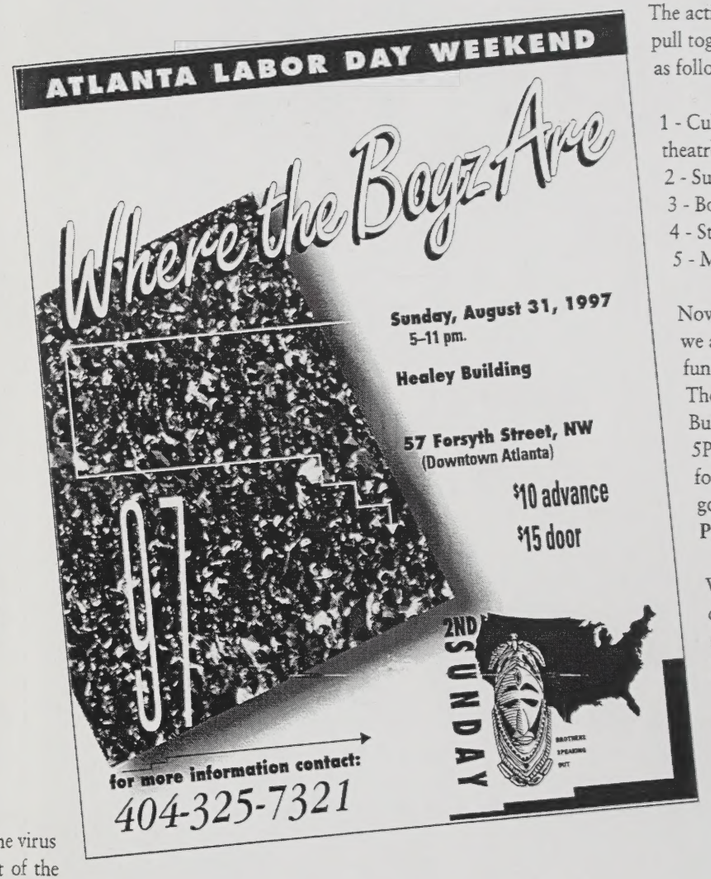
By Keith Warrick

We asked and you responded! The results are in for the recent Activities Committee survey where everyone in attendance at the April meeting was polled.

The activities that you would most like us to pull together for the remainder of the year are as follows in rank order:

1 - Cultural Activities (i.e., book readings, theatre & musuem outings)
2 - Sunday Brunch
3 - Bowling Night
4 - Stoned Soul Picnics
5 - Movie Nights

Now of course, we are going to party, to, so we are proud to announce the second annual *'Where the Boys Are 97'* fundraiser to be held Labor Day weekend on Sunday August 31, 1997. The place: Healey Building in downtown Atlanta located at 57 Forsyth Street. The time: 5PM to 11PM. This year's event is a Tea Dance. We have three levels for you and yours to move, groove and get your freak on! Tickets go on sale at the June meeting immediately following the discussion. **Put your orders in now!**



We will have numerous mini fund raisers before this event to help defray our expenses for this premier event so we are counting on your support! Mark your calendars now for Saturday June 28th when we have our first *'Bare Bones'* Party to start our fund raising!

Remember to stop by the Activities Committee table in June to get your advance tickets for Labor Day. $10.00 in advance and $15.00 at the door!

Peace,

BROTHERS SHARING

By Malik M.L. Williams

Several years ago, a friend introduced me to an attractive and personable man. My soon-to-be fling and I talked for an hour, negotiated the exchange of phone numbers for future reference, went back to his place, and had sex. Neither of us mentioned condoms, "safer sex," or the life-threatening situation in which we both might have been placing ourselves. During the following three months, we got together on occasion to "work it out." We protected ourselves without exception after that first time, and we never mentioned the danger of our initial encounter. We were okay; why talk about it?

Not so many years ago, a friend called me to tell me that my former fling was "sick." I called the last good number I had for him. I told myself that I was calling to offer support, to lend an ear. I suppressed the questions lurking in the back of my mind: "How long had he known? Was it before we...?" The operator-recording on the phone interrupted to tell me that I had been out of touch for too long. My former fling had moved. I hung up and went about my business. I was okay; why worry about it?

A few years ago, a friend ran into me at the mall. He asked if anyone had told me about my former fling's death. I listened to his description of the memorial service, thanked him, and went home to sit in silence. I tried not to think about the risk I had invited into my life. I tried not to think about the death of the man who had never found the courage to name his disease. I was okay; why think about it? Last year a friend confided in me that he had never been "... you know-tested." I smiled as I reported that my most recent test, like the last four or five before it, had been negative. I told my friend about the man who had been my former fling, whose death had taught me that I was wasting too much energy trying not to think, not to know. Because he was my friend, I asked him to get himself tested. I told him I had been blessed with a second chance, but not everyone would be, and that everybody needed to know what they were dealing with. Positive or negative, there were thousands of opportunities to be okay; why wonder about it?

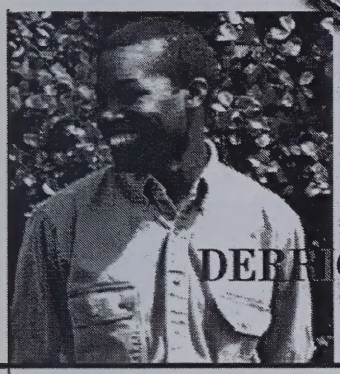
This year-1997-another friend died in silence and solitude. With all the options for diagnosis, treatment and support available today, I don't understand how it could have happened. I imagine the numbers of brothers this year and next year who will sit and wish themselves safe without doing the simple things to make themselves safe. I sometimes wish I could force all my brothers-positive and negative-to find out what they can do for themselves.

We're not all dealing with it; we're not all okay. Why lie about it?

Malik M.L. Williams is a member of The Adodi Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble/ An Outsiders' Collective, a member of the board of In The Life Atlanta, and a member of Second Sunday's Topic Committee.

THEIR THOUGHTS

2ND BRO.



DERRICK REESE

an interview by Edwin Maurice Cook

EC: I understand that you have not been in Atlanta long. What are your feelings about the city and what influenced your decision to move here?

DR: I am happy to be here in Atlanta. It was important for me to live in a place that had a large black population and a large gay population. Luckily I found both here.

EC: How would you define yourself in terms of sexuality?

DR: An out black gay male.

EC: How do you define out?

DR: The people important to me know about my sexuality. This includes blood relatives as well as close friends. I am also out in my workplace.

EC: When did you recognize that you were gay?

DR: Well I guess I always knew but, didn't know what to call it. My earliest memory was walking with my sisters in the third grade and discussing the boys I thought were atrractive. When my sister gasped, I felt something was different.

EC: At this point in your life, where do you see yourself?

DR: I have reached a point of stability. Now I would like to start laying the foundation of the things I would like to accomplsh in life.

EC: And that being?

DR: Going back to school to receive my doctorate in Public Health and to one day run a health department.

EC: What is your opinion of Second Sunday?

DR: I only have one issue with 2nd Sunday, that's how the group defines the people it serves.

EC: Would you explain this further?

DR: My preference would've been to have the group's name to serve the black gay, bi, trans population as opposed to using men of African descent. I have a fear of using "Politically Correct Language" we may do ourselves more harm than good.

EC: What significance does Second Sunday have for you?

DR: It provides a safe space for black gay men to share experiences. It has allowed me to develop close friendships with people I feel will be there for me, and with me relatively new in the city that's a wonderful thing.

EC: Speaking of relationships are you currently seeing anyone?

DR: I'm dating, but I am not in a relationship.

EC: Would you have a problem dating someone outside your race or someone who may be HIV positive?

DR: I have dated outside my race. I don't see it as a barrier. I have found it to be more difficult to be in a relatioship with a white man. To my knowledge I have not dated anyone HIV positive, but that would not be a problem for me.

EC: What are some problems you've experienced in dating?

DR: TRUST, I find it difficult to be open and to trust in someone.

EC: What do you think is the biggest problem facing the black gay community?

DR: Silence without a doubt. We don't talk to each other about issues affecting us.

EC: What are your fears?

DR: Not making a difference in the things I choose to do in life. Fear of not being good and smart enough. This fear is deep rooted and ones I have carried since childhood.

EC: How have the issue of HIV/AIDS affected you?

DR: Recently it has touched my life in a personal way. Learning about people who are close to me who have either become infected or passed away, has caused some level of anxiety and a great degree of sadness.

2ND NOTES

Black Lesbian and Gay Poets Society

presents

spoken fire

your host Tony Daniels

All Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Artists are Welcomed

OPEN MIC

Saturday June 21, 1997
828 West Peachtree Street
AIDS Survival Project

$5.00 donation requested

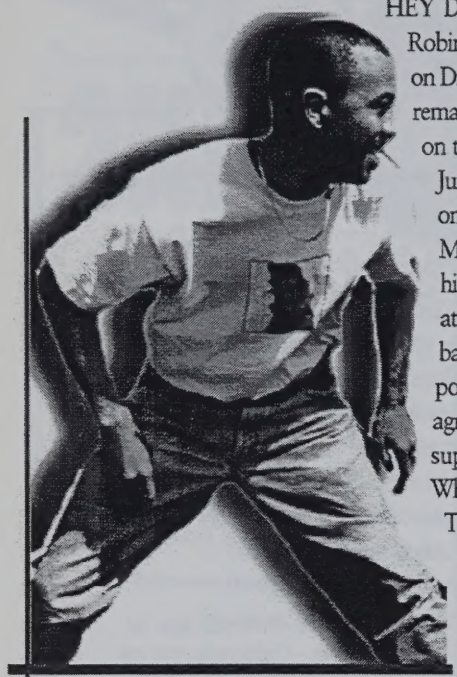
8:30 pm.–9:00 pm. sign up
9:00 pm.–11:00 pm. open mic
for additional information
contact: 404.881.1985
poets, rappers, singers, dancers, visual artists

Palette of Diaspora:
a black mans experience

Benny Andrews
Carl Christian
Michael Ellison
Michael Morgan
Freddie Styles
Omar Thomas

Gwinnett Fine Arts Center
Duluth, GA
Gallery # 770.623.6002

2ND SPIN *rob's* **Review**



HEY DID YOU HERE...En Vogue member Dawn Robinson has left the group to go solo. She has signed on Dr. Dre's new label to record "Ghetto Metal," The remaining members are putting the finishing touches on their new album entitled EV3, which is due out June 17th. Check them out on Saturday Night live on May 17th...Martin is being canceled (finally,) Martin Lawrence says he wants to concentrate on his movie career, the final one hour episode will air at the end of May...Halle Berry has entered the battle with Whitney and Janet, to be the first to portray Dorothy Dandridge on film, Halle has agreed to portray Dorothy in an HBO film that is supposed to air sometime before Christmas... Whitney's next film is to be a remake of the 1974 TV movie "Get Christie Love", the story of a beautiful policewoman who goes undercover to expose that she really can't act...Michael Jackson has a new album "Blood on the Dance Floor-HIStory In the Mix-book 1," due out May 22nd, The album will contain four new tracks and remixes from HIStory, including the first single "Blood on the Dance Floor" which is reviewed below.

REVIEWS

Love Jones - the Music

Wow! This soundtrack is jam packed with incredible artists and music. Dionne Farris, Lauryn Hill, Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Maxwell, Cassandra Wilson, Groove Theory, and the list goes on and on. The new comer Trina Brousasard, sang the hell out of Minnie Ripperton's song "Inside My Love," but I found myself wishing that I were listening to the ever-so-missed Chante' Moore, whom Brousasard brings to mind. Siedha Garrett did a great job as the new front vocalist of the Brand New Heavies, replacing the recently departed N'Dea Davenport, who I hear is now doing back up vocals for some local unsigned band. I know that I will probably be stoned to death for saying this, but what the hell, I loved Xscape's rendition of "In the Rain." Despite their reported internal feuding, they still manage to sound great together. I was truly moved when I heard Cassandra Wilson work her magic, maybe now she will be appreciated as the DIVA she is. So, go out get a copy of Love Jones-the Music, and get your grove on with your love jones, I know I did.

Mary J. Blige - Share My World

The Queen has returned!!! Usually after I listen to a new Mary J. record, I am left with this feeling that I have heard these songs before. Then it hits me: I have heard these songs before, just on somebody else's record. This time was different for me. Don't misunderstand; she still gives you the samples and her traditional remakes, but they just did not seem to evoke that same feeling for me. After listening to this record a couple of times, the music started to sink in, and I started to feel the passion that Mary put into this record. There are several tracks that standout to me, but there are two tracks in particular that really move me. The first is a Babyface track "Missing You;" Mary J. was destined to SANG this song, and SANG it she does. This track has smash hit written all through it, and it once again proves Babyface's genius. He was able to construct a song that was perfectly suited for Mary J.. Once I was able to move on from this track, I discovered the incredible "Seven Days." Mary cuts loose on this one. Mary I just want to tell you that I love you, and thank for this incredible record, but in the future pick songs to remake that you can actually sing. Oh yeah, just so you know, songs that you can sing do not include anything by Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and I guess not even Natalie Cole.

Michael Jackson - Blood on the Dance Floor

After listening to this song I can see that Michael picked the perfect name, because there was blood on the dance floor, MINE, because Michael was killing me with this song. I guess Ms. Jackson thinks that since he is the "King of Pop," people will automatically love what ever little song he decides to throw together-well that is not the case. The best thing about the "Blood on the Dance Floor" CD5 was the remix of "Dangerous." I really think Michael needs to get out more to meet some new people, because I am sick of hearing about Annie. Who the hell is she anyway? Pick this one up if you must, but please be careful, because it can cause bleeding.

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

October 1998
Vol. 2
No. 2

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

$2 VALUE
FREE LOCALLY

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2ND SAY — *a message from our* CO-CHAIR

robert mathis "INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT"

What ever happened to **individual commitment**? SECOND SUNDAY was created by and would not have survived without **individual commitment**: that is the state of being bound emotionally and/or intellectually to a course of action. I watched with pride at the June 14th SECOND SUNDAY meeting as a panel of brothers discussed the organization's history. These were men who demonstrated **individual commitment** and were collectively responsible for founding and leading SECOND SUNDAY to its fifth anniversary. They discussed the trials and tribulations of providing a safe place for same gender loving men of African descent to meet; a place where we could be accepted and affirmed.

As I approach my third anniversary in Georgia, it is difficult for me to imagine Atlanta without SECOND SUNDAY. It is a scary thought. Nevertheless, one that I am forced to revisit when I see so few brothers doing most of the work required to keep the organization running. How long will these few brothers be able to continue doing so much of the work alone before they stop out of frustration and/or exhaustion? What would happen to the organization if a significant number of these brothers stopped working? Scary stuff! It is the fear that SECOND SUNDAY may cease to exist that initially motivated me to get involved. I didn't want to take SECOND SUNDAY for granted. You know what I mean: reap all the benefits without doing any of the work. I guess on some level an argument can be made for **individual commitment** in networking at SECOND SUNDAY meetings and coming to its social functions to pick up "potential partners."

Yet this argument misses the point: SECOND SUNDAY provides the atmosphere for all of this to happen. It is within the framework of this atmosphere that SECOND SUNDAY has grown. It will take **individual commitment** to maintain SECOND SUNDAY's presence. For this to happen we must keep its flame of life burning so that its torch can be handed to our younger brothers. I have been privileged to be able to work with the current group of brothers who work very hard and are the "few" mentioned above. All of us will have at some point put in our time and service, fulfilling our **individual commitment** to SECOND SUNDAY. What about you? Could you volunteer to help out? Maybe help or even join a committee? Facilitate a general meeting with a topic of special interest? Whatever your flavor SECOND SUNDAY is accommodating. You just need to give us a chance to taste. It is the food that you provide that will keep this organization alive.

So, what ever happened to **individual commitment**? It is alive and available. People need to be encouraged to get involved. They are willing and ready to help out, if given the chance and opportunity. SECOND SUNDAY's leadership is challenged with the task of motivating its membership so that helping the organization is more attractive and certainly more exciting. This can be done if **individual commitment** is encouraged and must be done if SECOND SUNDAY is to survive. ■

from the PUBLISHER

THUS HAVE I HEARD! This phrase has been the introduction to the most profound teachings of the 'Enlightened-One'; and I consider it apropos to adopt it for this publication in deference to my fellow brothers who continue to expound, within these pages, the most enlightening fruits of knowledge and wisdom which they have reaped during their experiences sojourning this existence.

Through this hallowed medium, we savored encouragement to bravely "feel the fear" and take on the challenges of living our lives, as same gender loving men, with dignity and integrity. We've been charged to sustain courage and resolve in affirming our lives as proud Black Gay American Men, though through glorious and meaningful unsung acts.

This issue continues to echo the challenge to affirm ourselves within our communities, organizations and families ("those spaces we call home") with a resounding charge to maintain our individual commitment in continuing the work and legacy of those who have passed the torch to us. We are encouraged to consider addressing those unresolved issues with those important to us, and are reminded that we should be doing something positive in memory of those who have gone on, but live on within us. Savoring the wisdom of these messages will ensure that, on our

(continued on page 2)

2ND READ *is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of* ***SECOND SUNDAY.*** *The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at* ***404.325.7321****, or e-mail us at* ***PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org***

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S desk

richard moultrie "COOL" DADDY

I want to tell you about my "cool" daddy. In 1993, I experienced a particularly growthful, but painful, closure of a relationship (the type which I allowed to cause me to question my worth and value before I knew better). In the midst of thrashing about on my cousin's floor, I picked up the telephone, awakened my father, asked him not to be ashamed of me, and then explained -- almost incoherently -- that I was gay and in love with a man that no longer loved me. Several days later I returned to Atlanta from California (where all this occurred) and received a greeting card from my dad. In it, he assured me that if he could alleviate the pain he would. As a result of that experience, I always turn to my father for advice in my relationships.

On the other hand, my father never expressed a desire to meet that young man, who is now one of my closest friends; nor has he been quite comfortable acquainting himself with any of the brothers I have dated since. But understand my point: he remains supportive, and I remain forgiving of the fact that my dad is unwilling (currently) to watch as I hold my lover's hand. I share this story because it appears to me that most of the brothers I know do not enjoy the same kind of openness and sharing with their fathers -- either due to their own fear, the physical or emotional unavailability of their fathers, or a combination of the two.

I question whether this apparent condition underlies the failure of so many of our love relationships. How many of us look for "daddy" in bedrooms? How many of us hold our partners accountable for measuring up to the memories of or expectations we had for our fathers? How many of us blame our lovers because they can not replace our fathers? Brothers, we better forgive "daddy" because our relationships with our fathers can not and will not be healed by: (1) sexual experiences; (2) blaming our fathers, ourselves or others; or (3) denying that the pain from our father's absence or the lack of his acceptance -- for many of us -- is real.

I do not suggest that my own experience with my dad serves as the sole paradigm for improved father-son relationships. But I do ask you to consider that we might benefit greatly by making peace with our fathers in order to find and/or reconnect with peace within ourselves. We can then enter our love relationships equipped with a spirit of peace instead of self constructed armors of fear, hurt and distrust.

If you are not prepared to address unresolved issues with your father -- or can not face him due to his physical or emotional unavailability -- forgive yourself for not being ready to do so at this time or for not having done so in the past, and forgive your father for the mistakes you believe he made. I decided to afford my dad the choice to really know me, rather than to blame him for not being a part of my life or to blame my partners for not filling the void that might otherwise have resulted from the absence of my dad's acceptance and understanding. Many of us accept lessons from "Sugar Daddies" and "Big Daddies". Therefore, shouldn't we allow our fathers (if possible) the opportunity to participate more fully in our lives as well? ■

PUBLISHER, *from front page*

watch, we attend that the fire keeps burning until we pass the torch on to those who come after us.

Undoubtedly, these brothers heed a clarion call from a divine source. Within us all is an invaluable jewel of abundant and infinite wealth … to be shared, not hoarded. So, I invite you to write in and share the wealth of your experiences with us all, and we will all be the wiser as a result.

But, in the meantime, feast on this months offering from these enlightened brothers. For, as it has been imparted to me, I now with great pleasure bestow to you what: THUS HAVE I HEARD!...

Darrol C. De Andre
Public Relations Co-Coordinator

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301**

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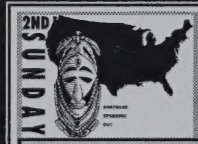


ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1998 OCTOBER 1998

11 **2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting: "BISEXUALITY In The GAY COMMUNITY"**
Sunday, October 11, 1998, 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL EAST - PHOENIX ROOM
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA

18 **AIDS WALK ATLANTA**
Sunday, October 18, 1998, 12:00 p.m.
PIEDMONT PARK
Midtown, Atlanta, GA

22 **"KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN"**
A 2ND SUNDAY Benefit Performance
Thursday, October 22, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
14TH STREET PLAYHOUSE
14th Street @ Juniper, Atlanta, GA

a LETTER to the editor

2ND REPLY

ian courtney barrett THE MEMORIES OF AIDS

In a filing cabinet somewhere I have a plain manila folder. It contains memories of friends who have passed on, but live on because they are not forgotten. The contents of the folder confirm that it is by the grace of a Higher Power, and not anything I've done, that I'm still here. The folder contains the following:

PROGRAM - Celebrating the Life of Roland (October 26, 1964 - February 29, 1996), Wednesday, March 6, 1996, 11:00 a.m., Norland United Methodist Church, Miami, Florida. Roland and I attended high school together. His death was a shock because I found out he was ill the month before his death.

MAP - Miami Memorial park, Miami, Florida. Roland is buried in the Eternity Garden. Victor, with whom I also attended high school, is buried in the Garden of Honor. I try to visit both of them whenever I'm in Miami. It's almost as if there is a magnet at the memorial park that draws me there. My visits don't make me sad. They remind me that I need to be doing something.

PROGRAM - A Service of Remembrance for Jeramy, Palmer Memorial Chapel, Columbia, South Carolina, 1:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 1996. Jeramy and I attended the University of Georgia and worked at Macy's in Athens together. He died on the same day as Roland - February 29, 1996.

PROGRAM - Homecoming Celebration, Randall, (September 5, 1952 - September 8, 1996) Thursday, September 12, 1996, 12:00 p.m., New Covenant United Church of Christ, Buffalo, New York. Randall and I met years ago in Florida through mutual friends. He left behind his pride and joy - a daughter who is in high school.

PROGRAM - Homecoming Celebration for Spencer, 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 12, 1996, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Spencer, a gifted musician, served as my church choir director and my friend. He taught college, and his kids gave him an appropriate send-off in song. Spencer was laid to rest in his hometown at the Virginia shore.

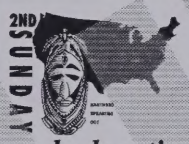
I have more programs in the attic; each one captures a life cut short. On Sunday, October 18, 1998, all of us have an opportunity to join the fight against this deadly virus. AIDS Walk Atlanta will take place on that day, and this event is a 10-kilometer walk through Midtown Atlanta to raise money for fighting the AIDS epidemic. Recent studies indicate that the virus is becoming more "colored" (minorities) and more "heterosexual". Black and Hispanic women are especially at risk.

The funds raised are used in three ways -- services to people with AIDS, AIDS prevention and education, and shaping AIDS policy. Please walk for those who cannot walk, or make a donation of money or time. For further information, please **call (404) 876-WALK.**

Roland wrote a beautiful tribute to his mother for her retirement celebration. He referenced several works, and this is one of my favorites…

May God bless you and keep you, making each tomorrow better than yesterday and each today a memory of happiness. And as always, may the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you, in the hollow of his hands… ■

[Note: person's names have been changed.]



Second Sunday maintains an active involvement in the community. We are committed to the HIV/AIDS cause, and we actively support organizations that provide services to people with AIDS, develop prevention and education programs, and engage in AIDS activism. Please join our team of brothers this year and participate in AIDS Walk Atlanta! Our group number is 2833 and registration forms are available at the Atlanta Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street. Let's help make a difference in the lives of men, women and children living with AIDS!

-- Second Sunday Steering Committee

AIDS WALK ATLANTA

SUNDAY•OCT 18•1998

CALL (404) 876-WALK

A TEN KILOMETER FUNDRAISING WALKATHON

STARTING AND ENDING AT PIEDMONT PARK

SIGN-IN 1:00PM
OPENING CEREMONY 1:30PM
WALK BEGINS 2:00PM

an EYE ON THE COMMUNITY

racist tendencies within the GAY COMMUNITY

2ND LOOK

--- Submitted by Staff Writer ---

In a matter that has become all-too-apparent over the years, any discussion of this subject allows little room for subtlety. Specifically, racism in the gay community is alive and well (that is, alive and SICK). Several instances readily come to mind.

Here in Atlanta the issue of Freaknic is a perfect example. Certainly the relative merits of this yearly event are open to debate, even within the black gay community. But, the arrogant, insensitive and indeed overtly racist remarks heard from far too many members of the Midtown white gay community with regard to this event leave many in the African-American gay community in a quandary as to how their white counterparts view people of color in general.

And then there is the issue of how people of color are treated at white-owned business establishments. The lingering problem of excessive "carding" of African-Americans at gay bars is a good example. Doubtless most of us who patronize bars have experienced this policy at some point. And unfortunately, we are forced to single out gay establishments for these practices. Unless straight bars and nightclubs are run by total Neanderthals, black patrons are, for the most part, treated with basic dignity at these establishments. But far too often, this insidious carding policy at gay establishments raises the specter of the old "pass book" policy which prevailed in apartheid-era South Africa. Furthermore, how many black bartenders do we see at predominantly white gay bars?

Another bone of contention is the flagrant disrespect and insensitivity on the part of many white gay persons in the presence of gay people of color. Seemingly, many white gays are totally oblivious to the offensive and insulting nature of certain racist utterances. Many use the "n" word quite liberally, without regard to the hurt incurred by such verbal venom.

Perhaps some members of the white gay community, a group held in contempt by many in the heterosexual majority, feel that they can somehow validate their own worth through an expression of disdain for a group that they deem inferior and easy prey.

For those in the gay community (both white and black) who question a perceived exclusivity in separate Black Pride events around the country, you might only look honestly at these realities and draw your own conclusions. ■

an EYE ON THE COMMUNITY

allan f. reid INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

2ND LOOK

It is hoped that the Brothas in and around Atlanta had a wonderful summer. May they continue to be united in brotherhood and to grow in spirituality.

The group, 40-Plus, is still pursuing the goal to reach a target membership of 50. (See the previous article by Robert Mathis in the August 1998 issue of 2ND READ.) Presently the group consists of 36 paid members. The next monthly meeting will be held on September 27, 1998 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting place will be The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia. The discussion topic will be on mentoring and the facilitator will be Robert Mathis. In the past, the average attendance at the meetings has been about 20 men whose ages range from 35 to 55.

The last discussion was held on July 26, 1998. The topic was "Planning for the Future: Wills and Estate Planning". The facilitator was a prominent black lawyer whose practice is in Atlanta. The information imparted at this session was invaluable.

Last month, instead of having the usual monthly forum, the group went to see the movie "How Stella Got Her Groove Back". Afterwards, we had dinner and then discussed the movie. Individuals gave an analysis about what they thought the writer was saying. Some commented that it is unrealistic, given the younger man's position, that the relationship would last, that the age difference would result in mis-communication, that the inequality in finances would cause control issues, and that the younger person's lack of responsibility would erode the relationship. It is interesting to note that one of the youngest individuals stated that he felt the relationship would last because he was in that type of situation in the past. His long term relationship ended because his partner passed. We all reflected about what it would entail to have a relationship with someone who was much younger than ourselves. ■

2ND SUNDAY

40-Plus

October Discussion Group Meeting

"Where Do You Want To Be In The Year 2000?"

Sunday, October 25, 1998, 4:00PM

Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ALLAN REID AT 404.212.9705

2ND REVIEW

MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT/LITERATURE

ken horton ON THE SCENE

THE MISEDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL
--Lauren Hill/Ruffhouse Columbia

Watch out Mariah, Whitney and Janet. It doesn't take a lot of education to figure out that this lady is on the fast track to superstar status. Miss Fugee Mama produced, arranged, and performs all the songs on this 14 track masterpiece. Lauryn shows an incredible range of versatility on her debut solo project. "Lost Ones" gives us the gritty rap that could rival gansta rap without being too hardcore. "Doo Wop" (That Thing) blends light rap with an old 60's type beat that can make nuns get up and do the Bankhead bounce (What is "that thing" she's talking about anyway?). The gospel-laced "To Zion" is a touching tribute to her new baby boy. Jazz great Carlos Santana supplies guitar for this song. Mary J. Blige and D'Angelo also make guest appearances. If you like an even blend of rap, blues, hip hop, and reggae, this album is definitely worth the money.

RUSH HOUR
--New Line

The daughter of a powerful diplomat is kidnapped. Who better to send to the rescue than the new Odd Couple. Director Brett Ratner had a stroke of genius when he paired Hong Kong's biggest export Jackie Chan with Atlanta's own Chris Tucker. Chan portrays Inspector Lee, a bigshot cop from China who is teamed with the overly-ambitious L.A. detective James Carter, played by Tucker.

Chan has to share billing in this movie, so fans won't see him kick ass from beginning to end like all of his other films. But when he does, it's kung fu magic. Tucker supplies the laughs like he always does with his fly comments and slapstick antics. The movie is purely for those who wish to be entertained. Although it has a thin story line, there is a lesson to be learned here. Diverse people from diverse cultures can learn from each other. They may even learn to like one another. It's a great flick. Go see it!

GYM RATS
--by Eric Saunders /UEG Books, $14.95

If you enjoy the erotic fiction that you find in those pictorial magazines (and you know who you are), you would definitely enjoy this story about three African-American men who spend the better part of their days in any place that have the words "gym" or "athletic center" in the title. The reader is taken into the adventures of best friends Andrew, a successful banker (this guy bought a king-sized bed just because he didn't want to buy queen-sized sheets!), Malik, an L.A. television writer, and David a future lawyer. We get to follow the trio to Pride in D.C. on Memorial Day, Los Angeles on the Foruth of July and Labor Day in Atlanta. There is sauna sex, self sex, phone sex, cyber sex, group sex, safe sex parties, club sex, and bookstore sex (and that's by the time you get to chapter three). This is a novel which uses ebonics and would be fun to read aloud while cuddled up with that special somebody (or that boy you barely know). I commend Mr. Saunders for creating characters that performed only safer sex. ■

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A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment
1998
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2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I am a black middle-class professional gay man who is involved in a relationship with someone of a background quite different from my own. My partner's origins are in a black underclass, the character of which causes him problems in relating to my world. The only thing that keeps us together is sexual compatibility. In other respects, our relationship is miserable. How do I resolve this problem? --Barry

Hi Barry:

Although important, sexual compatibility should not serve as the sole basis for a relationship. Perhaps you and your partner should have a serious discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of your relationship and try to reach a mature and realistic understanding. If frank discussion fails, perhaps you should seriously consider whether you do indeed have a relationship or simply a sexual convenience.

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I feel trapped in a dead-end job. My boss has her favorites and is only willing to reward them. Also, I do not feel that I am learning or growing professionally. On the other hand I do make decent money. What do you suggest, Tyrone?

--Tyler

Hi Tyler:

First, if you consider your place of employment as a means of making money only, you will never be happy there. As with anything, what we do professionally should be about service to yourself and to others. So it is no wonder that you are unhappy if your desire is simply to "get paid!" Second, if no matter how hard you work, and how much you contribute your boss chooses not to appreciate you, you must make a choice -- to leave! A better job is waiting for you, so long as you understand that you deserve it.

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I just had an AIDS test and I am happy to say it was negative. Before I went for the test, I asked my friend of 7 months if he thought about going, since both of us haven't been tested since 1992. He says he knows it is time, but he has some fear and has put it off. How can I get him to understand the importance of early detection?

--C S Winston

Hi C S:

Tough, tough, decision. You are right, early detection is key! With all the advances made with life prolonging drugs, people should strongly consider testing. However, whether to undergo an HIV test is a decision that your friend must choose to make for himself, not for you. While you can certainly support him in gaining the strength to handle the stress and anxiety of an HIV test, be sensitive to the fact that in the final analysis, it is your friend that must be prepared to accept the possibility of testing positive and the potential consequences of such a result -- such as committing to a vigorous drug therapy program and the possibility that you may choose not to hang around. Know that your opportunity is to provide the example, to provide support, to provide under-standing. But you can not, and should not, attempt to force a decision -- of any kind -- on any one else.

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I am a 34-year-old man who just returned to college. I'm majoring in broadcasting and journalism. Tyrone, by the time I graduate, I will be 39. After three more years of graduate studies I'll be 42. Tyrone, will I be too old to have just come out of college?

--Back to the Old School

Hi Old School:

How old would you be if you didn't return to college? ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

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REGISTER NOW!
CALL 404.872.3600 FOR INFO
~~~~~~~~~~

Why VOTE?

We have an opportunity to change our world, to create the type of society in which we wish to live. All we have to do is spend a few minutes in the voting booth on NOVEMBER 3RD.

Regardless of our disgust at political posturing and partisan hypocrisy, regardless of mud-slinging ads that leave us confused and wanting it all to be over, some folks will, nonetheless, turn out to vote. If we're not among them, we have given those who go to the polls without us the power to select officials who will represent them, and their interests -- not ours.

A recent State Senate primary in Georgia was decided by ONE vote! If we are silent and do not choose who should represent us…

…when the question of who is best qualified to be a parent comes before an elected judge, the judge will deny custody to a loving, committed lesbian couple.

…when the State Insurance Commissioner arbitrarily decides to restrict a company's right to offer domestic partner benefits, one of the partners in a gay male couple will be denied health insurance.

…when the State Senate evaluates whether sodomy laws are antiquated and should be removed, they will leave the unfairly-applied law in place and continue to make love a crime in Georgia.

…when the State House of Representatives acts on the Governor's recommendation for funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, people living with HIV/AIDS will die for lack of lifesaving medication.

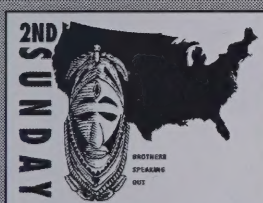
…when the Georgia Legislature takes up a bill to protect our jobs, those who think firing gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgendered is OK will retain their legal ability to do so.

But if we vote, we select those who will ensure our freedom and safety at work, at home, in private, and in public.

Most importantly, when we vote, we empower ourselves; by taking responsibility for who is elected to office, we are utilizing the power we have and gaining more power as we earn access and influence with those we elect. We change the system to meet our needs and concerns, and give ourselves a chance to live peacefully and openly.

Why vote? Because those who do will choose who governs our lives. And our lives are too valuable to let someone else decide for us.

If you need information about candidates or voting by absentee ballot, contact the Georgia Equality Project PAC at 404.872.3600 or visit the Unity Vote '98 website at http://members.aol.com/unityvote/index.htm.



BISEXUALITY
In The GAY Community

Do Bisexuals Really Exist, or ... Is Bisexuality Just A Myth Perpetuated By The Confused and Indecisive?

Are Bisexual Black Men Living The Invisible Life?

Have We Turned Our Backs On Our Bisexual Brothas?

DISCUSSION MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1998
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

City Hall East • Phoenix Room
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

October COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1998

Saturday, 10/10/98

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. AIDS Survival Project presents: "Side Effects Associated with Anti-HIV Drugs" - A free community forum to be held at AIDS Survival Project offices at 828 West Peachtree St., Suite 206, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 874-7926

Sunday, 10/11/98

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY, General Discussion Meeting. Topic: "BISEXUALITY In The GAY Community". Discussion group for Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Men of African descent; held at City Hall East - Phoenix Room, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 10/18/98

1:00 p.m. AIDS Walk Atlanta, a ten kilometer fundraising walkathon, starting and ending at Piedmont Park. For more info call (404) 876-WALK.

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group Meeting held at 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more into call (404) 325-7321.

Thursday, 10/22/98

7:30 p.m. "KISS OF THE SPIDER-WOMAN". A Special Benefit Performance presented by Jomandi Productions and sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY. Limited Tickets are available for $20. Call Craig Washington at (404) 885-6800 x271.

Saturday, 10/24/98

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The National Black Lesbian & Gay Forum and Local A.S.O. Planning Committee presents "African Americans Taking Charge" An Info Update from the World AIDS Conference. A free public forum held at Spelman College - Camille H. Cosby Center. For more info call Craig Washington (404) 885-6800 x271

12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Workshop: "THE MANY FACES OF SEXUAL ADDICTION". See Ad below for info.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. "BLACK COFFEE" A Discussion Group for same-gender-loving men of African descent. For more info call Craig Washington at (404) 885-6800 x271.

Sunday, 10/25/98

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting. Topic: "WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE YEAR 2000?" For more info call Allan Reid at (404) 212-9705.

WORKSHOPS FOR BROTHERS IN THE LIFE

"The Many Faces of Sexual Addiction"

OCTOBER 24, 1998 • 12:30 - 4:00 P.M.

LAMBDA CENTER

828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor

Atlanta, Georgia

[$20 Advance Registration • $25 At The Door]

For more information contact:

Ulester Douglas, LMSW (404) 635-9418

Robert Mathis, LCSW (770) 496-4338

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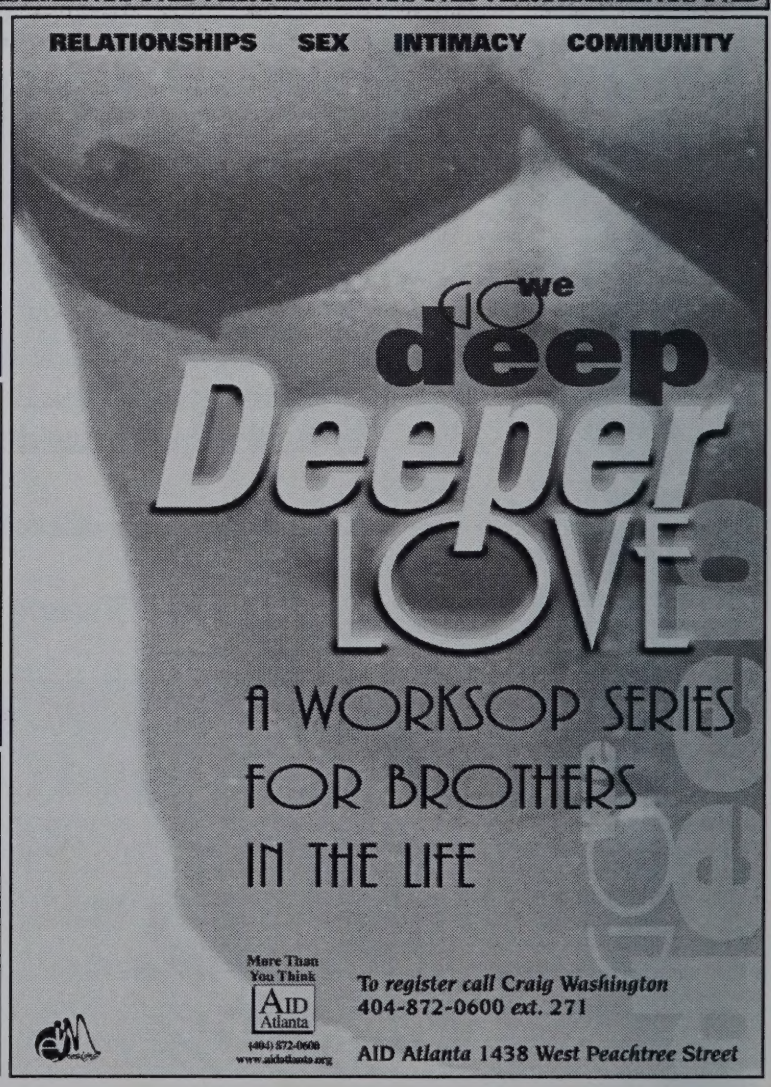

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

October 1998
Vol. 2
No. 2

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

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2ND SAY — *a message from our* CO-CHAIR

robert mathis **"INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT"**

What ever happened to **individual commitment**? SECOND SUNDAY was created by and would not have survived without **individual commitment**: that is the state of being bound emotionally and/or intellectually to a course of action. I watched with pride at the June 14th SECOND SUNDAY meeting as a panel of brothers discussed the organization's history. These were men who demonstrated **individual commitment** and were collectively responsible for founding and leading SECOND SUNDAY to its fifth anniversary. They discussed the trials and tribulations of providing a safe place for same gender loving men of African descent to meet; a place where we could be accepted and affirmed.

As I approach my third anniversary in Georgia, it is difficult for me to imagine Atlanta without SECOND SUNDAY. It is a scary thought. Nevertheless, one that I am forced to revisit when I see so few brothers doing most of the work required to keep the organization running. How long will these few brothers be able to continue doing so much of the work alone before they stop out of frustration and/or exhaustion? What would happen to the organization if a significant number of these brothers stopped working? Scary stuff! It is the fear that SECOND SUNDAY may cease to exist that initially motivated me to get involved. I didn't want to take SECOND SUNDAY for granted. You know what I mean: reap all the benefits without doing any of the work. I guess on some level an argument can be made for **individual commitment** in networking at SECOND SUNDAY meetings and coming to its social functions to pick up "potential partners."

Yet this argument misses the point: SECOND SUNDAY provides the atmosphere for all of this to happen. It is within the framework of this atmosphere that SECOND SUNDAY has grown. It will take **individual commitment** to maintain SECOND SUNDAY's presence. For this to happen we must keep its flame of life burning so that its torch can be handed to our younger brothers. I have been privileged to be able to work with the current group of brothers who work very hard and are the "few" mentioned above. All of us will have at some point put in our time and service, fulfilling our **individual commitment** to SECOND SUNDAY. What about you? Could you volunteer to help out? Maybe help or even join a committee? Facilitate a general meeting with a topic of special interest? Whatever your flavor SECOND SUNDAY is accommodating. You just need to give us a chance to taste. It is the food that you provide that will keep this organization alive.

So, what ever happened to **individual commitment**? It is alive and available. People need to be encouraged to get involved. They are willing and ready to help out, if given the chance and opportunity. SECOND SUNDAY's leadership is challenged with the task of motivating its membership so that helping the organization is more attractive and certainly more exciting. This can be done if **individual commitment** is encouraged and must be done if SECOND SUNDAY is to survive. ■

from the PUBLISHER

THUS HAVE I HEARD! This phrase has been the introduction to the most profound teachings of the 'Enlightened-One'; and I consider it apropos to adopt it for this publication in deference to my fellow brothers who continue to expound, within these pages, the most enlightening fruits of knowledge and wisdom which they have reaped during their experiences sojourning this existence.

Through this hallowed medium, we savored encouragement to bravely "feel the fear" and take on the challenges of living our lives, as same gender loving men, with dignity and integrity. We've been charged to sustain courage and resolve in affirming our lives as proud Black Gay American Men, though through glorious and meaningful unsung acts.

This issue continues to echo the challenge to affirm ourselves within our communities, organizations and families ("those spaces we call home") with a resounding charge to maintain our individual commitment in continuing the work and legacy of those who have passed the torch to us. We are encouraged to consider addressing those unresolved issues with those important to us, and are reminded that we should be doing something positive in memory of those who have gone on, but live on within us. Savoring the wisdom of these messages will ensure that, on our

(continued on page 2)

2ND READ** is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of **SECOND SUNDAY**. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at **404.325.7321**, or e-mail us at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S desk

richard moultrie "COOL" DADDY

I want to tell you about my "cool" daddy. In 1993, I experienced a particularly growthful, but painful, closure of a relationship (the type which I allowed to cause me to question my worth and value before I knew better). In the midst of thrashing about on my cousin's floor, I picked up the telephone, awakened my father, asked him not to be ashamed of me, and then explained -- almost incoherently -- that I was gay and in love with a man that no longer loved me. Several days later I returned to Atlanta from California (where all this occurred) and received a greeting card from my dad. In it, he assured me that if he could alleviate the pain he would. As a result of that experience, I always turn to my father for advice in my relationships.

On the other hand, my father never expressed a desire to meet that young man, who is now one of my closest friends; nor has he been quite comfortable acquainting himself with any of the brothers I have dated since. But understand my point: he remains supportive, and I remain forgiving of the fact that my dad is unwilling (currently) to watch as I hold my lover's hand. I share this story because it appears to me that most of the brothers I know do not enjoy the same kind of openness and sharing with their fathers -- either due to their own fear, the physical or emotional unavailability of their fathers, or a combination of the two.

I question whether this apparent condition underlies the failure of so many of our love relationships. How many of us look for "daddy" in bedrooms? How many of us hold our partners accountable for measuring up to the memories of or expectations we had for our fathers? How many of us blame our lovers because they can not replace our fathers? Brothers, we better forgive "daddy" because our relationships with our fathers can not and will not be healed by: (1) sexual experiences; (2) blaming our fathers, ourselves or others; or (3) denying that the pain from our father's absence or the lack of his acceptance -- for many of us -- is real.

I do not suggest that my own experience with my dad serves as the sole paradigm for improved father-son relationships. But I do ask you to consider that we might benefit greatly by making peace with our fathers in order to find and/or reconnect with peace within ourselves. We can then enter our love relationships equipped with a spirit of peace instead of self constructed armors of fear, hurt and distrust.

If you are not prepared to address unresolved issues with your father -- or can not face him due to his physical or emotional unavailability -- forgive yourself for not being ready to do so at this time or for not having done so in the past, and forgive your father for the mistakes you believe he made. I decided to afford my dad the choice to really know me, rather than to blame him for not being a part of my life or to blame my partners for not filling the void that might otherwise have resulted from the absence of my dad's acceptance and understanding. Many of us accept lessons from "Sugar Daddies" and "Big Daddies". Therefore, shouldn't we allow our fathers (if possible) the opportunity to participate more fully in our lives as well? ■

PUBLISHER, *from front page*

watch, we attend that the fire keeps burning until we pass the torch on to those who come after us.

Undoubtedly, these brothers heed a clarion call from a divine source. Within us all is an invaluable jewel of abundant and infinite wealth … to be shared, not hoarded. So, I invite you to write in and share the wealth of your experiences with us all, and we will all be the wiser as a result.

But, in the meantime, feast on this months offering from these enlightened brothers. For, as it has been imparted to me, I now with great pleasure bestow to you what: THUS HAVE I HEARD!...

Darrol C. De Andre
Public Relations Co-Coordinator

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301**

E-mail: **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org**
Fax: **(770) 435-1399**

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1998 OCTOBER 1998

11 **2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting: "BISEXUALITY In The GAY COMMUNITY"**
Sunday, October 11, 1998, 6:30 p.m.
CITY HALL EAST - PHOENIX ROOM
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA

18 **AIDS WALK ATLANTA**
Sunday, October 18, 1998, 12:00 p.m.
PIEDMONT PARK
Midtown, Atlanta, GA

22 **"KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN"**
A 2ND SUNDAY Benefit Performance
Thursday, October 22, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
14TH STREET PLAYHOUSE
14th Street @ Juniper, Atlanta, GA

a **LETTER** *to the editor*

2ND REPLY

ian courtney barrett **THE MEMORIES OF AIDS**

In a filing cabinet somewhere I have a plain manila folder. It contains memories of friends who have passed on, but live on because they are not forgotten. The contents of the folder confirm that it is by the grace of a Higher Power, and not anything I've done, that I'm still here. The folder contains the following:

PROGRAM - Celebrating the Life of Roland (October 26, 1964 - February 29, 1996), Wednesday, March 6, 1996, 11:00 a.m., Norland United Methodist Church, Miami, Florida. Roland and I attended high school together. His death was a shock because I found out he was ill the month before his death.

MAP - Miami Memorial park, Miami, Florida. Roland is buried in the Eternity Garden. Victor, with whom I also attended high school, is buried in the Garden of Honor. I try to visit both of them whenever I'm in Miami. It's almost as if there is a magnet at the memorial park that draws me there. My visits don't make me sad. They remind me that I need to be doing something.

PROGRAM - A Service of Remembrance for Jeramy, Palmer Memorial Chapel, Columbia, South Carolina, 1:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 1996. Jeramy and I attended the University of Georgia and worked at Macy's in Athens together. He died on the same day as Roland - February 29, 1996.

PROGRAM - Homecoming Celebration, Randall, (September 5, 1952 - September 8, 1996) Thursday, September 12, 1996, 12:00 p.m., New Covenant United Church of Christ, Buffalo, New York. Randall and I met years ago in Florida through mutual friends. He left behind his pride and joy - a daughter who is in high school.

PROGRAM - Homecoming Celebration for Spencer, 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 12, 1996, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Spencer, a gifted musician, served as my church choir director and my friend. He taught college, and his kids gave him an appropriate send-off in song. Spencer was laid to rest in his hometown at the Virginia shore.

I have more programs in the attic; each one captures a life cut short. On Sunday, October 18, 1998, all of us have an opportunity to join the fight against this deadly virus. AIDS Walk Atlanta will take place on that day, and this event is a 10-kilometer walk through Midtown Atlanta to raise money for fighting the AIDS epidemic. Recent studies indicate that the virus is becoming more "colored" (minorities) and more "heterosexual". Black and Hispanic women are especially at risk.

The funds raised are used in three ways -- services to people with AIDS, AIDS prevention and education, and shaping AIDS policy. Please walk for those who cannot walk, or make a donation of money or time. For further information, please **call (404) 876-WALK.**

Roland wrote a beautiful tribute to his mother for her retirement celebration. He referenced several works, and this is one of my favorites…

May God bless you and keep you, making each tomorrow better than yesterday and each today a memory of happiness. And as always, may the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you, in the hollow of his hands… ■

[Note: person's names have been changed.]

Second Sunday maintains an active involvement in the community. We are committed to the HIV/AIDS cause, and we actively support organizations that provide services to people with AIDS, develop prevention and education programs, and engage in AIDS activism. Please join our team of brothers this year and participate in AIDS Walk Atlanta! Our group number is 2833 and registration forms are available at the Atlanta Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street. Let's help make a difference in the lives of men, women and children living with AIDS!

-- Second Sunday Steering Committee

AIDS WALK ATLANTA

SUNDAY•OCT 18•1998

CALL (404) 876-WALK

A TEN KILOMETER FUNDRAISING WALKATHON

STARTING AND ENDING AT PIEDMONT PARK

SIGN-IN 1:00PM
OPENING CEREMONY 1:30PM
WALK BEGINS 2:00PM

an EYE ON THE COMMUNITY

racist tendencies within the GAY COMMUNITY

2ND LOOK

--- Submitted by Staff Writer ---

In a matter that has become all-too-apparent over the years, any discussion of this subject allows little room for subtlety. Specifically, racism in the gay community is alive and well (that is, alive and SICK). Several instances readily come to mind.

Here in Atlanta the issue of Freaknic is a perfect example. Certainly the relative merits of this yearly event are open to debate, even within the black gay community. But, the arrogant, insensitive and indeed overtly racist remarks heard from far too many members of the Midtown white gay community with regard to this event leave many in the African-American gay community in a quandary as to how their white counterparts view people of color in general.

And then there is the issue of how people of color are treated at white-owned business establishments. The lingering problem of excessive "carding" of African-Americans at gay bars is a good example. Doubtless most of us who patronize bars have experienced this policy at some point. And unfortunately, we are forced to single out gay establishments for these practices. Unless straight bars and nightclubs are run by total Neanderthals, black patrons are, for the most part, treated with basic dignity at these establishments. But far too often, this insidious carding policy at gay establishments raises the specter of the old "pass book" policy which prevailed in apartheid-era South Africa. Furthermore, how many black bartenders do we see at predominantly white gay bars?

Another bone of contention is the flagrant disrespect and insensitivity on the part of many white gay persons in the presence of gay people of color. Seemingly, many white gays are totally oblivious to the offensive and insulting nature of certain racist utterances. Many use the "n" word quite liberally, without regard to the hurt incurred by such verbal venom.

Perhaps some members of the white gay community, a group held in contempt by many in the heterosexual majority, feel that they can somehow validate their own worth through an expression of disdain for a group that they deem inferior and easy prey.

For those in the gay community (both white and black) who question a perceived exclusivity in separate Black Pride events around the country, you might only look honestly at these realities and draw your own conclusions. ■

2ND LOOK

an EYE ON THE COMMUNITY

allan f. reid INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

It is hoped that the Brothas in and around Atlanta had a wonderful summer. May they continue to be united in brotherhood and to grow in spirituality.

The group, 40-Plus, is still pursuing the goal to reach a target membership of 50. (See the previous article by Robert Mathis in the August 1998 issue of 2ND READ.) Presently the group consists of 36 paid members. The next monthly meeting will be held on September 27, 1998 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting place will be The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia. The discussion topic will be on mentoring and the facilitator will be Robert Mathis. In the past, the average attendance at the meetings has been about 20 men whose ages range from 35 to 55.

The last discussion was held on July 26, 1998. The topic was "Planning for the Future: Wills and Estate Planning". The facilitator was a prominent black lawyer whose practice is in Atlanta. The information imparted at this session was invaluable.

Last month, instead of having the usual monthly forum, the group went to see the movie "How Stella Got Her Groove Back". Afterwards, we had dinner and then discussed the movie. Individuals gave an analysis about what they thought the writer was saying. Some commented that it is unrealistic, given the younger man's position, that the relationship would last, that the age difference would result in mis-communication, that the inequality in finances would cause control issues, and that the younger person's lack of responsibility would erode the relationship. It is interesting to note that one of the youngest individuals stated that he felt the relationship would last because he was in that type of situation in the past. His long term relationship ended because his partner passed. We all reflected about what it would entail to have a relationship with someone who was much younger than ourselves. ■

40-Plus

October Discussion Group Meeting

"Where Do You Want To Be In The Year 2000?"

Sunday, October 25, 1998, 4:00PM

Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ALLAN REID AT 404.212.9705

2ND REVIEW — MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT/LITERATURE

ken horton ON THE SCENE

THE MISEDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL
--Lauren Hill/Ruffhouse Columbia

Watch out Mariah, Whitney and Janet. It doesn't take a lot of education to figure out that this lady is on the fast track to superstar status. Miss Fugee Mama produced, arranged, and performs all the songs on this 14 track masterpiece. Lauryn shows an incredible range of versatility on her debut solo project. "Lost Ones" gives us the gritty rap that could rival gansta rap without being too hardcore. "Doo Wop" (That Thing) blends light rap with an old 60's type beat that can make nuns get up and do the Bankhead bounce (What is "that thing" she's talking about anyway?). The gospel-laced "To Zion" is a touching tribute to her new baby boy. Jazz great Carlos Santana supplies guitar for this song. Mary J. Blige and D'Angelo also make guest appearances. If you like an even blend of rap, blues, hip hop, and reggae, this album is definitely worth the money.

RUSH HOUR
--New Line

The daughter of a powerful diplomat is kidnapped. Who better to send to the rescue than the new Odd Couple. Director Brett Ratner had a stroke of genius when he paired Hong Kong's biggest export Jackie Chan with Atlanta's own Chris Tucker. Chan portrays Inspector Lee, a bigshot cop from China who is teamed with the overly-ambitious L.A. detective James Carter, played by Tucker.

Chan has to share billing in this movie, so fans won't see him kick ass from beginning to end like all of his other films. But when he does, it's kung fu magic. Tucker supplies the laughs like he always does with his fly comments and slapstick antics. The movie is purely for those who wish to be entertained. Although it has a thin story line, there is a lesson to be learned here. Diverse people from diverse cultures can learn from each other. They may even learn to like one another. It's a great flick. Go see it!

GYM RATS
--by Eric Saunders /UEG Books, $14.95

If you enjoy the erotic fiction that you find in those pictorial magazines (and you know who you are), you would definitely enjoy this story about three African-American men who spend the better part of their days in any place that have the words "gym" or "athletic center" in the title. The reader is taken into the adventures of best friends Andrew, a successful banker (this guy bought a king-sized bed just because he didn't want to buy queen-sized sheets!), Malik, an L.A. television writer, and David a future lawyer. We get to follow the trio to Pride in D.C. on Memorial Day, Los Angeles on the Foruth of July and Labor Day in Atlanta. There is sauna sex, self sex, phone sex, cyber sex, group sex, safe sex parties, club sex, and bookstore sex (and that's by the time you get to chapter three). This is a novel which uses ebonics and would be fun to read aloud while cuddled up with that special somebody (or that boy you barely know). I commend Mr. Saunders for creating characters that performed only safer sex. ■

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828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208
Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger
A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment
1998
For more information contact: 404-325-7321

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I am a black middle-class professional gay man who is involved in a relationship with someone of a background quite different from my own. My partner's origins are in a black underclass, the character of which causes him problems in relating to my world. The only thing that keeps us together is sexual compatibility. In other respects, our relationship is miserable. How do I resolve this problem? --Barry

Hi Barry:

Although important, sexual compatibility should not serve as the sole basis for a relationship. Perhaps you and your partner should have a serious discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of your relationship and try to reach a mature and realistic understanding. If frank discussion fails, perhaps you should seriously consider whether you do indeed have a relationship or simply a sexual convenience.

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I feel trapped in a dead-end job. My boss has her favorites and is only willing to reward them. Also, I do not feel that I am learning or growing professionally. On the other hand I do make decent money. What do you suggest, Tyrone?

--Tyler

Hi Tyler:

First, if you consider your place of employment as a means of making money only, you will never be happy there. As with anything, what we do professionally should be about service to yourself and to others. So it is no wonder that you are unhappy if your desire is simply to "get paid!" Second, if no matter how hard you work, and how much you contribute your boss chooses not to appreciate you, you must make a choice -- to leave! A better job is waiting for you, so long as you understand that you deserve it.

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I just had an AIDS test and I am happy to say it was negative. Before I went for the test, I asked my friend of 7 months if he thought about going, since both of us haven't been tested since 1992. He says he knows it is time, but he has some fear and has put it off. How can I get him to understand the importance of early detection?

--C S Winston

Hi C S:

Tough, tough, decision. You are right, early detection is key! With all the advances made with life prolonging drugs, people should strongly consider testing. However, whether to undergo an HIV test is a decision that your friend must choose to make for himself, not for you. While you can certainly support him in gaining the strength to handle the stress and anxiety of an HIV test, be sensitive to the fact that in the final analysis, it is your friend that must be prepared to accept the possibility of testing positive and the potential consequences of such a result -- such as committing to a vigorous drug therapy program and the possibility that you may choose not to hang around. Know that your opportunity is to provide the example, to provide support, to provide under-standing. But you can not, and should not, attempt to force a decision -- of any kind -- on any one else.

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I am a 34-year-old man who just returned to college. I'm majoring in broadcasting and journalism. Tyrone, by the time I graduate, I will be 39. After three more years of graduate studies I'll be 42. Tyrone, will I be too old to have just come out of college?

--Back to the Old School

Hi Old School:

How old would you be if you didn't return to college? ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

JOMANDI PRODUCTIONS
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"KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN"

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1998, 7:30 P.M.

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VOTE NOV. 3RD

REGISTER NOW!
CALL 404.872.3600 FOR INFO
~~~~~~~~~~

Why VOTE?

We have an opportunity to change our world, to create the type of society in which we wish to live. All we have to do is spend a few minutes in the voting booth on NOVEMBER 3RD.

Regardless of our disgust at political posturing and partisan hypocrisy, regardless of mud-slinging ads that leave us confused and wanting it all to be over, some folks will, nonetheless, turn out to vote. If we're not among them, we have given those who go to the polls without us the power to select officials who will represent them, and their interests -- not ours.

A recent State Senate primary in Georgia was decided by ONE vote! If we are silent and do not choose who should represent us…

…when the question of who is best qualified to be a parent comes before an elected judge, the judge will deny custody to a loving, committed lesbian couple.

…when the State Insurance Commissioner arbitrarily decides to restrict a company's right to offer domestic partner benefits, one of the partners in a gay male couple will be denied health insurance.

…when the State Senate evaluates whether sodomy laws are antiquated and should be removed, they will leave the unfairly-applied law in place and continue to make love a crime in Georgia.

…when the State House of Representatives acts on the Governor's recommendation for funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, people living with HIV/AIDS will die for lack of lifesaving medication.

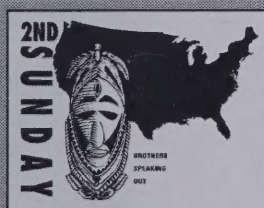
…when the Georgia Legislature takes up a bill to protect our jobs, those who think firing gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgendered is OK will retain their legal ability to do so.

But if we vote, we select those who will ensure our freedom and safety at work, at home, in private, and in public.

Most importantly, when we vote, we empower ourselves; by taking responsibility for who is elected to office, we are utilizing the power we have and gaining more power as we earn access and influence with those we elect. We change the system to meet our needs and concerns, and give ourselves a chance to live peacefully and openly.

Why vote? Because those who do will choose who governs our lives. And our lives are too valuable to let someone else decide for us.

If you need information about candidates or voting by absentee ballot, contact the Georgia Equality Project PAC at 404.872.3600 or visit the Unity Vote '98 website at http://members.aol.com/unityvote/index.htm.



BISEXUALITY
In The GAY Community

Do Bisexuals Really Exist, or ... Is Bisexuality Just A Myth Perpetuated By The Confused and Indecisive?

Are Bisexual Black Men Living The Invisible Life?

Have We Turned Our Backs On Our Bisexual Brothas?

DISCUSSION MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1998
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

City Hall East • Phoenix Room
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

October COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1998

Saturday, 10/10/98

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. AIDS Survival Project presents: "Side Effects Associated with Anti-HIV Drugs" - A free community forum to be held at AIDS Survival Project offices at 828 West Peachtree St., Suite 206, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 874-7926

Sunday, 10/11/98

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY, General Discussion Meeting. Topic: "BISEXUALITY In The GAY Community". Discussion group for Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Men of African descent; held at City Hall East - Phoenix Room, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 10/18/98

1:00 p.m. AIDS Walk Atlanta, a ten kilometer fundraising walkathon, starting and ending at Piedmont Park. For more info call (404) 876-WALK.

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group Meeting held at 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more into call (404) 325-7321.

Thursday, 10/22/98

7:30 p.m. "KISS OF THE SPIDER-WOMAN". A Special Benefit Performance presented by Jomandi Productions and sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY. Limited Tickets are available for $20. Call Craig Washington at (404) 885-6800 x271.

Saturday, 10/24/98

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. The National Black Lesbian & Gay Forum and Local A.S.O. Planning Committee presents "African Americans Taking Charge" An Info Update from the World AIDS Conference. A free public forum held at Spelman College - Camille H. Cosby Center. For more info call Craig Washington (404) 885-6800 x271

12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Workshop: "THE MANY FACES OF SEXUAL ADDICTION". See Ad below for info.

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. "BLACK COFFEE" A Discussion Group for same-gender-loving men of African descent. For more info call Craig Washington at (404) 885-6800 x271.

Sunday, 10/25/98

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting. Topic: "WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE YEAR 2000?" For more info call Allan Reid at (404) 212-9705.

WORKSHOPS FOR BROTHERS IN THE LIFE

"The Many Faces of Sexual Addiction"

OCTOBER 24, 1998 • 12:30 - 4:00 P.M.

LAMBDA CENTER

828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor

Atlanta, Georgia

[$20 Advance Registration • $25 At The Door]

For more information contact:

Ulester Douglas, LMSW (404) 635-9418

Robert Mathis, LCSW (770) 496-4338

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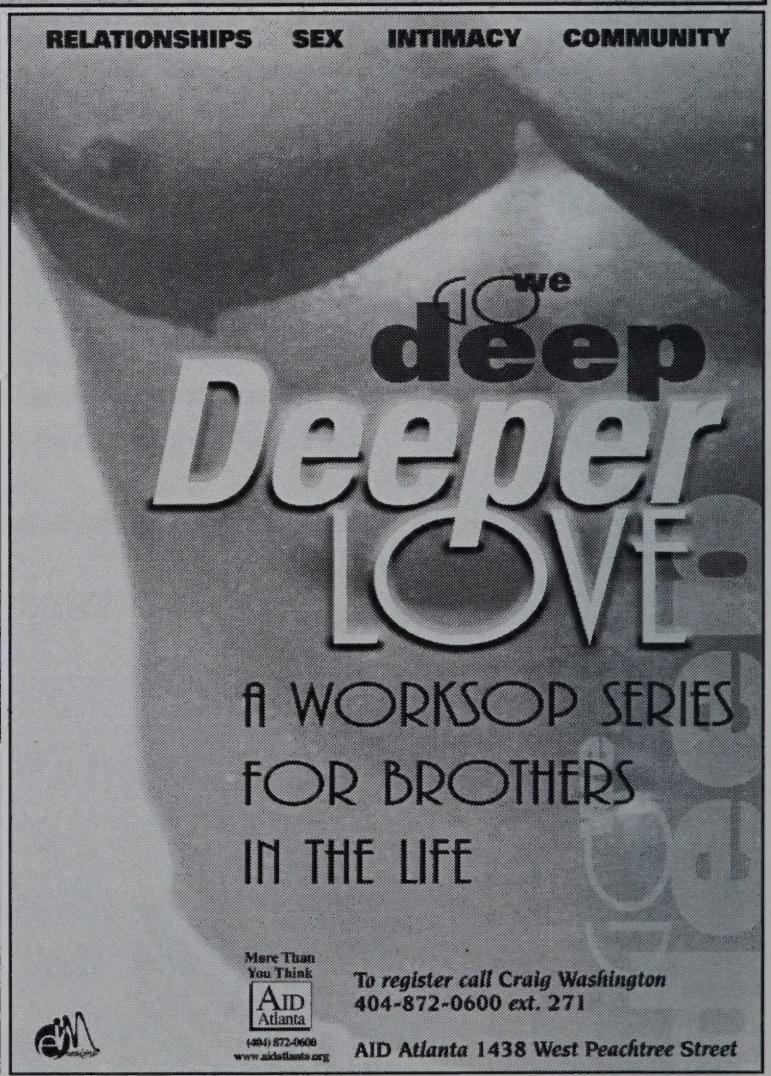

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

November 1998
Vol. 2
No. 3

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

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2ND SAY — *a message from our* CO-CHAIR

craig washington MAKE ME WANNA HOLLER...

...THE WAY WE DO OUR LIVES

Do you know that black men who-have-sex-with-other-men account for the majority of AIDS cases among African-Americans? Or do you buy the palatable fallacy that "African-American women are the hardest hit?" Do you believe the N.A.A.C.P. will hear the concerns of Black gay men as they at long last take on AIDS? How does it make you feel knowing that the son of Martin Luther King, Jr. considers AIDS a non-priority for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.)? Does it cross your mind to write him and ask him just what does cross his mind?

And what do you think about when you see our black men lining the Cypress, West Peachtree auction blocks? Do "trade" worry about HIV or should we worry about what trade worries about? Oh and by the way did you witness how two "respectable" (i.e. non-trade) SECOND SUNDAY members died in shame and silence? Did you hear how one was heterosexualized in the eulogy while the other's pastor chastised attendants for wearing red ribbons?

Have you heard that the only national organization providing technical assistance for HIV prevention among Black gay men is now defunct? Do you know how many such men are living here in Atlanta? Do you know how many HIV prevention programs exist for these men? Did you notice how many members of Brothers-Back-2-Back participated in the AIDS Walk? Did you catch how many SECOND SUNDAY members walked? Do you think this is "more like" a Brothers-Back-2-Back problem?

Do you see the picture here? How is your faith? Does it inspire in you the vision of a brighter day? Can you imagine a southern metropolis where more brothers promise more dollars for more treatment access, quality health care and effective prevention programs? Can you see us flooding the Statewide HIV Planning Council or the Metro Atlanta Planning Council with membership applications? Could you apply Iyanla Vanzant's philosophy to this issue? Did you see the sermon on the mount given by actress Beah Richards in the film "Beloved" in which she declared, "They don't love your hands. You got to love your hands"? Do you feel me? Do you? ■

from the PUBLISHER

Felicitous Greetings! ... Brothers, Community, Loyal Readers. With Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the New Year approaching: 'Tis the season to naturally wax reflective on the many joys and blessings realized throughout the year, as well as appreciate the wisdom gained from those more challenging experiences. Please, indulge me as I acknowledge my offerings of gratitude for this Thanksgiving season.

I am behooved to give thanks to our beloved SECOND SUNDAY, and the Men who, for six years now, continue to maintain an atmosphere which nurtures pride, unity and empowerment among same-gender-loving-men of African descent; a brotherhood that continues to provide a forum for consciousness-raising, relationship-building, spiritual-growth and personal-development "in the life"; a family that continues to celebrate diversity with acceptance, appreciation, understanding and respect for our individual agendas.

I am also encouraged to give thanks to the incredible brothers with whom I work to promote the goodwill of SECOND SUNDAY, and publish this hallowed medium, 2ND READ. Their commitment, professionalism, talent, and wisdom are unparalleled in the annals of history. Apparently, I must have performed some good karmic deeds during my previous lives to warrant being allowed in audience with such brilliance.

And on behalf of the publishing body of 2ND READ, I offer thanks to you, our readers, advertisers and contributors for your loyal support, your gracious accolades, and your constructive suggestions. We consider this venture a partnership with the "in the life community" to provide a publication within which to share with each other our concerns and interests, our pursuits and triumphs, our trials and tribulations, etc.

So, may peace, blessings and glad tiding continue to abound this holiday

(continued on page 2)

2ND READ** is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of **SECOND SUNDAY**. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at **404.325.7321**, or e-mail us at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard moultrie THE PURSE STRING FACTOR

Frequently I discuss with friends the idea of disclosing my sexual orientation at my workplace. Long ago I resolved to make every effort to avoid actively misleading my co-workers about my private life -- you know, by playing fast and loose with pronouns by replacing "he" with "she." But at the same time, I am clear that I remain unprepared to place a picture of a lover atop my desk. Nor do I expect, within the near future, to add, during casual conversations with my colleagues, information about weekend plans to share dinner with a man. I recognize that my fear around choosing to be "out" on the job rests, in large part, on what I call the "purse string factor".

I fear that a decision to divulge my sexual orientation at work poses financial risks. This is what I mean by the purse string factor. I imagine all sorts of ominous scenarios materializing should I make this declaration. For instance, I foresee a significant decrease in the amount of my raises, or worse, no further salary increases at all! I envision job assignments that no longer provide the fast-track career advancement currently available to me. Certainly some of this anxiety is unfounded. However, employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is not only prevalent, but also without remedy under the constitution.

On the other hand, I also appreciate that we, as Black, gay men, can not relegate to others the fight for recognition, acceptance and tolerance of homosexuality in the workplace. For my part, I remain hopeful that my ambitious nature will help me to overcome this purse string challenge. I recall that at one time I did not dare to disclose my sexual orientation to my parents for fear of losing their love and support, but this is a factor no longer. I also remember squirming uncomfortably when past lovers reached for my hand in public, but I squirm no longer. So, I keep optimistic that one day I will pull out my faith shears and make short shrift of these purse strings. ■

PUBLISHER, *from front page*

season. I hope that as you wax reflective, you may realize abundant causes and reasons to be appreciative for being alive, and that you have reaped the experiences in your life.

I also, hope that you find this month's thought-provoking issue enlightening and entertaining; and if per chance it conditions an epiphany, I trust that you will recompense our commission of the royalty by sharing it with us next month. Enjoy!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Darrol C. De Andre
Public Relations Director

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301**

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1998 NOVEMBER 1998

03

!! VOTE !! VOTE !! VOTE !! VOTE !!
Tuesday, November 3rd

VOTE! To Make A Real Difference In YOUR Everyday Life!

06

"BROTHAS" BOWLING NIGHT
Friday, November 6, 1998
11:00 p.m. - Until

EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta, GA
(404) 874-5703

08

2ND SUNDAY
Workshop/Discussion Meeting
"ADDICTIONS!: PERSONAL POWER"
Sunday, November 8, 1998 - 6:30 p.m.

CITY HALL EAST - PHOENIX ROOM
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA

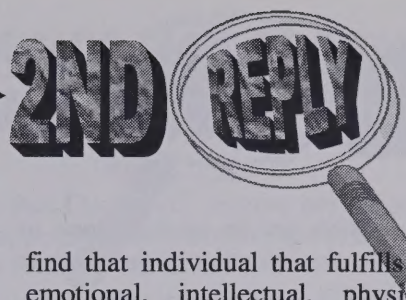
15

2ND SUNDAY
Quarterly MEMBERSHIP Meeting
Sunday, November 15, 1998 - 6:30 p.m.

LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

a LETTER to the editor

d.j. murphy BLACK GAY MONOGAMY IN ATLANTA:



...IS IT JUST A DREAM?

Just before I relocated from Miami, Florida, a friend told me that I would have a hard time finding a "good man" in this city. As he put it, "Atlanta is a town full of whores!" I found his statement odd, since Miami is a city where people are known to visit from all over the world in search of fun, sun and loose sexual relations. But I gathered from his statement that it might prove difficult to find and KEEP a good man; in particular, a good Black man, since there is a large population of gay men of color in Atlanta. I also imagined, based on his statement, that everywhere one turns, there is someone ready to steal you and/or your boyfriend, especially when both parties involved in the union are considered "cute."

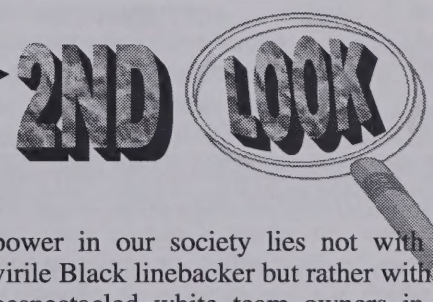
Yes, I mused, temptation does indeed exist everywhere you turn in Atlanta. For instance, when was the last time you visited Lenox Mall, Piedmont Park, Club Fusion, or a SECOND SUNDAY meeting without seeing a brother that caught your eye? Chances are if you answer "No" to this question, you are literally or figuratively blind. But I question whether this state of affairs means that Atlanta is a meet/meat market, threatening the life of any monogamous Black, gay male relationship? First of all, I realize that every one does not subscribe to monogamy. Some prefer a lifestyle of sex parties, threesomes, and frequent dating. Thus, the city should not be blamed because some brothers make these choices.

Still, while there does not appear to be a shortage of gay men in the "ATL" seeking a special guy to date exclusively, I can not help but wonder: why, in a town where Black, gay men are so prevalent, so many remain single? I discussed this question, and others, with an acquaintance named Dudley, whom I met while attending my first SECOND SUNDAY meeting in April of 1997. Dudley, now a good friend, talked about his relationship of twenty years. I asked him, "What keeps your relationship going after twenty years?" Dudley responded that, "...when you find that individual that fulfills all your emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual needs, then the qualities of the individuals around you pale in comparison. There is a great deal of respect you feel that individual deserves and this is what keeps you from temptation." Dudley then admitted that, "I do find other men attractive, but they don't measure up in comparison to Robert. I feel this is what defines being in love. This is what keeps the flame going after twenty years."

I am convinced that if this can happen for one couple, it certainly can happen for many others. It is in the man one selects, not the city in which he selects to live that determines whether the relationship survives. So, is Atlanta a town full of "whores?" While there may exist a certain element in Black, gay life that promotes loose sexual relations, I believe that finding romantic fulfillment -- in Atlanta as well as in any other city -- it totally depends upon the company you keep and the places you frequent. ■

an EYE ON THE COMMUNITY

homophobia in the AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY



--- Submitted by Staff Writer ---

Alas! As painful as it may be to admit, homophobia remains an all-too-prevalent factor in the African-American community. As if the African-American community were not already encumbered with far too many social pathologies, here arises yet another plague aimed at discrediting and even destroying a valuable segment of our population. Apparently, many in the Black community view that homosexuality is in some way a threat to all that is positive about our people. They argue that homosexuals are a menace to the procreation of the species; that homosexuality is just one more of the white man's schemes to destroy us as a people; that homosexuality is a transgression against God's law. And on and on, the arguments go.

Curiously, those in our community who attack homosexuality on religious grounds show themselves as "selective" with regard to identifying "sin." Homosexuality is wrong according to religious teaching, they assert. Yet heterosexual sex outside marriage is excused or at least ignored.

In the particular case of Black male homophobes, it appears that many of these men seek to erase the insecurities visited upon them by white power. And homosexuals seem a vulnerable and convenient target. It is no accident of nature that many Black males excel in sports, the military and other "physical" pursuits. Seemingly, far too many Black males view such undertakings as a manifestation of masculinity. Many of us with military experience recall the Black drill instructor as a terrifying nightmare. But ironically, the **real** male power in our society lies not with the virile Black linebacker but rather with the bespectacled white team owners in the front office. With a mere stroke of a pen, these physically "weak" white men wield the power to emasculate most Black sports superstars. Yet many in the Black community appear too myopic to grasp this reality. Homophobia and a quest for a "healthy" sexual identity blind them to these truths.

Indeed, homophobia remains an issue with which we in the African-American community have thus far failed to come to terms. It is an issue which will not disappear. Instead, frustrations generated by factors which have nothing to do with sexual orientation continue to fester in our community, causing the progress of our people as a whole to falter. ■

INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

allan f. reid AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PLAN

"A gift consists not in what is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer" --Seneca

It is with great pleasure that I send salutations to my brothers in SECOND SUNDAY and to all brothers who share a feeling of goodwill one to the other. The members of 40-Plus formed this group with the intent of filling a void in the social interaction of brothers 35 years and older who are paid members of SECOND SUNDAY. We ask members to commit some of their time to one of the four standing committees (Membership, Activities, Hospitality and Topics). By doing so, we hope to provide ways to enable 40-Plus members to bond, and to make the group more cohesive.

Presently, the group consists of thirty-six paid members. However, it has not proven easy to commit these thirty-six individuals to volunteer on a committee. This concerns me, since I hear brothers say they are looking for alternative outlets to clubbing and other "trivial" pursuits. Therefore, I wonder why these same brothers seem unwilling to give of their time to develop a kinship which can support them in any given circumstance. Brothers must remember that it is better to give than to receive. Robert Mathis, Co-Chair for SECOND SUNDAY, and I envision 40-Plus as a viable entity, and one that will continue to grow and meet the needs of all its members. Hopefully, brothers will realize too, that volunteering is an integral part of the plan. ■

mykul h. jones PRODUCT LIABILITY

I discovered the "40-Plus" group while attending SECOND SUNDAY meetings. The 40-Plus group is a discussion and social activities group geared toward Black gay men 35 and older. It meets every fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Lambda Center located at 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

I initially thought about the group's ability to offer a dating pool of older, more mature and experienced, professional men. Additionally, I reasoned that from the topics covered, I would get to know my "product" a lot better -- namely, me. Let me explain. First, we are all, in a sense, our own product. We know more about ourselves than we do about Coke, Pepsi, our favorite foods, clothes, or anything else to which we are exposed or choose to buy. As a result, how we advertise our product directly relates to whether we make a "sale" -- that is, a date.

When we, as individuals, impress someone enough so that he chooses to spend time with us, that person gets a closer look at the product we advertise. Too many times I purchase a product and unwrap the package only to find it empty. At other times, upon using a product as advertised, I found it did not work, literally! Still, on other occasions, I discovered that while a product might be packaged exceptionally well, be full of potential, look good on me, under me and around me, it simply was not the product for me. Have any of you been there?

Consequently, I am becoming more aware of what the market will bear, and the appropriate price for my product. I decided that I can let it go for some honesty, loyalty, commitment, intelligent conversation, ability to compromise, sexual prowess, and independent financial means. I intentionally priced my product for a select few, since I recognize that I am a luxury item. At the same time, however, I find that my packaging appears deceptive to many. Some see a battered artifact, practically ready for the flea market or some worthy charity, rather than a priceless work of art. But you know, art is in the eye of the beholder.

Perhaps, as 40-Plus continues to help me refine my inner product, I can work more on the exterior packaging as well. So for those of you who realize that you are not making the sales you deserve, come join us and redesign your product for those with discriminating tastes and a sharp eye for quality, value and service. Also, comparative shopping is negotiable. ■

2ND SUNDAY

40-Plus

November Discussion Group Meeting

"FORTY, BLACK & GAY"

Facilitator: GREGORY COSBY, L.M.S.W.

Sunday, November 22, 1998, 4:00PM

Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ALLAN REID AT 404.212.9705

GERALD LEVERT: LOVE AND CONSEQUENCES
--EastWest Records

When we listen to this work of art by Gerald Levert, you have to wonder who is he pretending to be? Is he that ever so cool Marvin Gaye, or that mistro of seduction Barry White, or is he the reincarnation of his father, the velvet-voiced Eddie Levert, lead singer of the O'Jays.

Whoever he is, one thing is for sure: Gerald seems to reinvent himself after each song. After listening to one song, you'll feel relaxed without a care in the world. After another, you'll have that running-through-the-meadows-because-I-feel-so-good feeling that we get when we are at peace with ourselves. The next thing you know, you'll hear one of those baby-making tunes that may force you to go get your freak on.

Gerald is joined by a few impressive friends and family on this CD, including long time musical partner Edwin "Tony" Nicholas, Lazy Bone and Ken Dawg of Bones, Thungs 'N Harmony, Mary J. Blige, and his brother Sean Levert. The final song of the CD is a heart tugging piece entitled "Humble Me", which is his best duet to date. He is partnered with his eight year-old son, Lemicah. Unfortunately, I don't believe that this CD is receiving the radio air time that it deserves.

BELOVED

After struggling 10 years to get this movie made, Oprah Winfrey triumphs as star and producer of "Beloved." The film, based on Toni Morrison's 1988 Pulitzer Prize winning novel, takes nearly three draining, yet devastating hours to reconstruct the life of Sethe, a former slave who worked low paying jobs to support herself in rural Ohio in the late 1800's.

Members of the neighborhood avoid Sethe's shack of a house for good reason: It's haunted by the spiteful spirit of the baby daughter that Sethe murdered. Winfrey gives a wonderful performance as the guilt-ridden Sethe. There is already speculation that Oprah will receive her second Oscar nomination. The supporting cast members are fully developed and add grace to the action of the film.

Danny Glover portrays Paul D, another former slave who endured brutality on the Sweet Home plantation in Kentucky, just as Sethe did. Glover makes this role his own with anger and compassion. Paul D, who was a friend of Sethe's deceased husband, hopes to begin a relationship with Sethe. Sethe's two older sons are scared off by the spirit, and daughter Denver, played by up-and-coming star Kimberly Elise (remember her from "Set It Off"?) can't bring herself to go outside.

The spirit of the murdered Beloved radiates as a red light, throws furniture and shatters mirrors. Soon, she takes on the adult human form of the lovely Thandie Newton, a seducer with the mind of a vengeful two-year-old and the voice of a demonic baby. Thandie may very well have the movie phrase of the year: "Touch me on the inside part."

The movie relies on flashbacks of the Sweet Home plantation to keep the story in perspective. Lisa Gay Hamilton gives realistic agonizations in her performances as the young Sethe. This is an exceptional movie that should bring Winfrey and company great recognition. There is one catch: If you are not in the theater when the film starts to roll, chances are that you will be totally lost, so get to the theater early. ■

Meet PEARL CLEAGE
Oprah's Book Pick: *[Avon, $12.00]*
"What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day"
Wednesday, November 11, 1998 · 8:00 p.m.
ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN BOOKSTORE & COFFEEHOUSE
OUTWRITE
Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue @ 10th Street
Midtown/ Atlanta
(404) 607-0082

As a participant in "Dining Out For Life"
20% of Food proceeds that evening donated to Project Open Hand

2ND SUNDAY
sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY
my BROTHAZ keeper
PRESENTING
• Your confidentiality will be respected
• Every 3rd Sunday
• 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
• Atlanta Lambda Center
828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208
Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger
A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment
1998
For more information contact: 404-325-7321

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I'm a 21-year-old man who just accepted being gay. I have been seeing this guy for about two weeks now and so far all we've done is hug and kiss. Tyrone, I don't know how to French kiss. I know the basics, like using my tongue, but don't know where to put it, how to move it around or where to put my hands. How do you French, in details?

--Wannabe Frenched

Hi Wannabe:

Ahhhh... the excitement of your first frenchie! Don't worry so much! Kissing is something that comes naturally to most. You'll probably find that it does for you as well. Here are some definite don'ts:

Don't...

1. *Eat mass amounts of garlic or onions beforehand.*
2. *Bite off his tongue! Nothing spoils the moment more than having to rush to the ER with a tongue on ice.*

Different people like to kiss and be kissed differently. Some people like to stick that sucker in so deep that it touches the top of the Adams apple. Some like to let their tongues hang out just a little at the entrance. Follow your partner's lead and do what he does at first, then add your own little spice as you gain experience. MUAH!! A big wet sloppy kiss for ya! Good luck!

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I'm an HIV+ individual. I'm on several of the new drugs and it has suppressed the HIV, meaning the disease is at an undetectable level. Here is my problem: I'm honest to everyone I meet about my condition, but it always meets with hesitance and then lost friendships. I told this guy I was dating for about 2 weeks and he has stop calling. How can I stop this cycle. I want to date and I want to be honest! Should I stop telling and just practice safe sex? I don't know.

--R. Moss

Hi R.:

Tough! Tough! This is a very difficult question. I meditated on it, I even spoke to different people and the responses I received echoed the battle that's going on with you. You can image the responses. Without sounding condescending, I feel your pain. Let's talk options: Have you ever considered dating or pursuing someone in a similar situation. Wait, wait! Let me stop trying to be politically correct! If you were my friend, I would tell you not to tell. If you are merely dating these people and there is no exchange of bodily fluids, (I have to go there), then why bother. Continue to go out and enjoy dating for what it is, a getting-to-know-you process! Who knows, you could meet your best friend. Today, so many of us are only interested in sexual compatibility, that we experiment too soon with sex before a friendship is formed.

If you two are still "dating" six months from now, then you may want to consider telling. You will find that these days, not too many people will be scared off. Some may disagree with this advice, but you didn't come to them, you came to me. I remember dating this guy and on the first date, he wanted to pull my piece out. I'm thinking, this guy is nice, but too bad he's only interested in sex. Alright, off the the soap box. Be honest, date and have fun! ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

B G M T (Black Gay Men Together) & CLUB FUSION

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website: www.brotha.com/fusion

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Come and experience the Vybe & Excitement that we have in store for you.

DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT

2 DANCE FORMATS

MAIN ROOM	VYBE ROOM
HOUSE	Hip Hop/Reggae R&B
Resident DJ - Kurt Robinson -	Resident DJ - Smash -

DOORS OPEN AT 10:30 - UNTIL

HOT FUDGE SUNDAES

SUNDAY MALE REVIEW & VARIETY SHOW

Featuring the Hottest Male Dancers from around the country to perform each week, and select Cabaret Performers to entertain you...

(Raquell Lord, Jasmine Bonet, Nicole Luv Dupree, Stasha Sanchez and Niesha Luv Dupree)

SHOWTIME - 12:00 MIDNIGHT

2 DANCE FORMATS

MAIN ROOM	VYBE ROOM
Hip Hop/Reggae R&B	OLD SKOOL HOUSE
Resident DJ - Smash	DJ Boom DJ Mike Music

DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 - UNTIL

CLUB FUSION - 550-C Amsterdam Avenue (off Monroe) - Midtown Outlets, Atlanta - 404.872.6411 / 770.745.0243
~~~~~~~~~~

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psychotherapist

individuals • couples • family • and group therapy

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!! VOTE !!

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3RD

LOCALNET COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVE
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FAX: (404) 212-0192
E-MAIL: kaietuk@juno.com

2ND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Quarterly Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1998, 6:30 p.m.
LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta

2ND SUNDAY

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

ADDICTIONS!

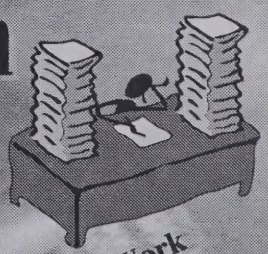
900 Lines!

Alcohol

"Personal Power"
Workshop/Discussion

Facilitator: *Darryl!*

Are addictions getting in the way of your life? Join us as we identify types of addictions and ways to diffuse their hold on your life.



Work

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

City Hall East • Phoenix Room
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

November COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1998

Friday, 11/06/98

11:00 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY "BROTHAS BOWLING NIGHT" Express Bowling Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta. (404) 874-5703

Sunday, 11/08/98

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY, Workshop/Discussion Meeting. Topic: "ADDICTIONS: Personal Power" Discussion group for Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Men of African descent; held at City Hall East - Phoenix Room, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Tuesday, 11/10/98

7:30 p.m. I.T.L.A. Planning Committee Meeting, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta.

Wednesday, 11/11/98

8:00 p.m. Meet PEARL CLEAGE Book signing & reading "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day" OutWrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta

Sunday, 11/15/98

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY Quarterly MEMBERSHIP Meeting, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 11/15/98

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Saturday, 11/21/98

9:00 p.m. SPEAKFIRE, Open mic. AIDS SURVIVAL PROJECT, 828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor, Atlanta.

Sunday, 11/22/98

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting. Topic: "FORTY, BLACK & GAY" For more info call Allan Reid at (404) 212-9705.

Tuesday, 11/24/98

7:30 p.m. I.T.L.A. (IN THE LIFE ATLANTA) Planning Committee Meeting, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. Sponsoring Community Kwanzaa on December 26, 1998; at the Wyndham Hotel, Midtown, 10th Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 872-6410.

WORKSHOPS FOR BROTHERS IN THE LIFE

"Family Addictions: Workaholism & Drugs"

DECEMBER 5, 1998 • 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.

LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor
Atlanta, Georgia

[$20 Advance Registration • $25 At The Door]

For more information contact:

Ulester Douglas, LMSW (404) 635-9418

Robert Mathis, LCSW (770) 496-4338

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
Celebrating
The Black Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Gay Community
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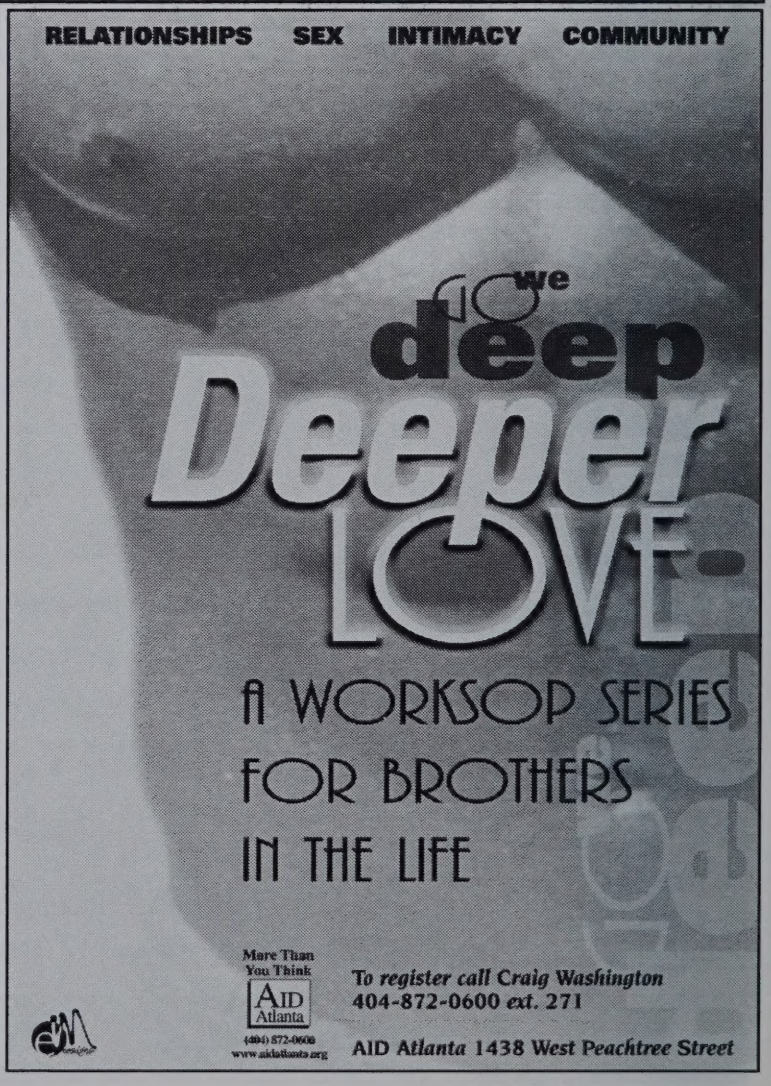


2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

January 1999
Vol. 3
No. 1

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

$2 VALUE
FREE LOCALLY

SECOND SUNDAY • Post Office Box 78705 • Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705 • (404) 325-7321

[URL] **http://www.SecondSunday.org** • [E-MAIL] **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org**

2ND SAY — *a message from our* **CHAIR**

robert mathis **PROPOSED BYLAWS OF SECOND SUNDAY**

As we begin the New Year we also approach the end of our sixth year as an organization. It seems we only just celebrated our fifth anniversary! Time continues to move and take no hostages, however. So it is fitting that we mark this period in our history with a proposal for major change; a change which reflects our own growth as an organization while maintaining the traditions of SECOND SUNDAY's ancestry. The **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY** is the agent for this change. The members of SECOND SUNDAY will be voting on this document at the next membership meeting scheduled later this month. Why new bylaws? There are a number of reasons, but I will briefly discuss four of them here.

First, our membership has changed. We are no longer a small group of brothers getting together monthly at one of our homes. We have grown into an organization with over 125 paid members, and with up to over 225 same-gender-loving Men of African Descent attending our monthly 2ND SUNDAY meetings. Implicit in this growth is more diversity. We are a group made up of different sizes, shapes, shades, educational backgrounds, socio-economic statuses, etc. We have different wants and needs and on some level would like SECOND SUNDAY to address these. Though the organization's mission remains the same, the ways in which we achieve our objectives have changed.

Second, we need to start operating more like a business. Achieving many of our objectives requires money. Many of the meetings (committees, programs, membership, etc.) are held in spaces which are not free. Maintaining a post office box, voicemail, newsletter, supplies, and the like require even more money. Mailing our information to folk on our mailing list requires money. I think you get the point: we need money to operate. By positioning the organization to run more like a business we can incorporate and change our tax status; this move would allow us to access different revenue sources and enjoy tax breaks.

Third, we need to streamline our decision making process. We have scaled the leadership from a system of two Co-Coordinators for each Standing Committee/Program to one Director for each of these Committees/Programs. Our governing body now consists of twelve (12) members rather than the original twenty (20). Finally, the Executive Committee consists of one chairman and one vice-chairman instead of two co-chairs.

Fourth, we need more accountability. We moved the governing arm of the organization, the Steering Committee, to a Board of Directors which will supervise, control and direct the management, affairs and property of the organization. In sum, the **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY** marks a major shift for SECOND SUNDAY. The current leadership of SECOND SUNDAY is presenting these bylaws because we believe it is in line with the direction our membership voted on last year. We ask that you plan to attend and vote on this document at the membership meeting planned for January 31, 1999. Copies of the **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY** are available. All members of SECOND SUNDAY who are either current in their dues or who paid through December 31st of last year are eligible to receive the **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY**. You may pick up your copy at the January 10th SECOND SUNDAY meeting at City Hall East. Since the bylaws will not be mailed, it is important that you pick up your copy on this date. Only paid members who are current with their dues will be allowed to attend the Membership meeting January 31, 1999. I look forward to seeing all of you then. ■

INSIDE this Issue

2 Somethin' for the Cynics
3 God Loves You!
5 Best Wishes for 1999
6 Wanted…Mature Gays
7 Even If You Must Stand Alone…
8 Concierge for Couples?
9 Call Tyrone
Announcements / Advertisements

2ND READ is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of SECOND SUNDAY. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at 404.325.7321, or e-mail us at PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard s. moultrie, jr. **SOMETHIN' FOR THE CYNICS**

I am always disheartened by the number of people I meet who question my involvement in and with SECOND SUNDAY. Some of their concerns are ones with which I sympathize, so I will address those first. Many disapprove of SECOND SUNDAY's practice of encouraging attendees to discuss their private, and sometimes painful, experiences in a public forum (at times attendance at monthly meetings reaches 200). These pundits shake their heads in confusion and bewilderment when I defend our organization's manner of requesting members and visitors to speak about themselves when addressing the discussion topics. At times, for instance, I disclose some of the most personal details about my life and experiences when a particular subject moves me. I do so not only in the hope of benefiting others through lessons I learned (or missed), but also to further my own healing through confession and discussion. Still, I appreciate that everyone is not comfortable engaging in this type of dialogue among strangers; and for those who care not to speak, there does exist the option of listening.

As I said, I do sympathize with these privacy concerns. However, some of the naysayers I encounter offend me entirely by their comments. Some dismiss SECOND SUNDAY as a meat market. My response to this criticism is that I do not choose to advertise my bodily wares to bargain hunters (art dealers excepted). As a result, I do not concern myself with those brothers solely interested in Second Sunday for its marketplace potential. Now, you may notice that I specifically included the "solely" in the above statement. I did so because I encourage brothers to utilize SECOND DUNDAY as a venue for meeting quality people. Few would argue that private parties and other public places like theaters and concerts should be avoided for meeting potential partners. So why should critics reject a forum like SECOND SUNDAY as a conduit for screening eligible men? Providing the space for brothers to meet, perhaps find a date and exchange ideas, are not and should not be mutually exclusive goals.

Next, I meet those that insist that SECOND SUNDAY members act "shady" and cliquish. Well, I am all about sunshine. Consequently, "cloudy" folk may venture into my space, but they seldom tarry. In other words, to this group of cynics I recommend the following advice as an alternative to otherwise missing out on what our organization offers: employ the same methods to avoid shady and cliquish people at SECOND SUNDAY as you would use in any other environment.

Finally, I am most disturbed by people who suggest to me that a group like SECOND SUNDAY should have little to offer a man of my "talent" and "intelligence." First, I am always stunned by the ignorance of this comment, since I certainly do not occupy a premium on talent or intelligence when compared to other members of our group. Our organization proudly boasts a membership and visitor roster which consists of brothers from varied socio-economic and academic backgrounds. Second, I assume that those who make this statement either do not or can not discern the layer of elitism which thickly coats this kind of remark. I too enjoy intimate and lofty intellectual intercourse with small coteries of friends at chic coffeehouses. But I also enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie afforded in larger group dynamics like SECOND SUNDAY. Both settings provide stimulation and escape. Both settings allow for enlightenment and lively debate. And neither setting robs me of a choice to simply remain at home if I suspect that the talk and company will be unappealing. ■

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Assoc. Director, Public Relations

Robert Mathis
Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Craig Washington
Vice-Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Staff Writers
Allan F. Reid
Keiron Williams
Darryl! L. C. Moch

Graphics/Layout
Ronald Spencer
Darrol C. De Andre

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 JANUARY 1999

08 **B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY**
2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSION
Friday, JANUARY 8, 1998 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

10 **2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting**
CIVIL RIGHTS & US...As Black Gay Men
Sunday, JANUARY 10, 1998 • 6:30 PM
CITY HALL EAST - PHOENIX ROOM
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA

21 **SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB**
"Like Breathing" by Rice Rollins
Thursday, JANUARY 21, 1998 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

a LETTER to the editor

drevan Jointer GOD LOVES YOU!

2ND REPLY

One second Sunday evening I was the first to arrive at the hall. I started setting out tables when two gentlemen arrived. I introduced myself and so did they. One of the brothers remarked that this was his first time attending SECOND SUNDAY. The other gentleman said that he had attended previously. We had begun to talk about God, religion, and spirituality when the brother visiting for the first time shared with me that he was a minister and struggling with his sexuality. After hearing me speak so positively about the organization, as well as my own spiritual philosophy, he asked me for advice on how to deal with his struggle. For a moment I was speechless. I was not sure what to say.

Then I began reflecting on some advice I received from a dear friend when I was experiencing similar challenges. So I said to his visitor, "Your being gay is okay!" Also, I said, "God loves you totally and completely for who you are. Now it is time that you do the same." He gave me a look like, "Wow," and received my comments gracefully. This brother's struggles are not different from those many of us experience, or have experienced in the past. We struggle with ourselves and with believing that God does not love us or want us because we are gay. Through prayer, meditation and allowing my spirit to connect with the spirit of God, I found that these beliefs are completely untrue! God loves us and he has always loved us.

Unfortunately, it is often our churches that instill this conditioning in our minds. The church should serve as a place that encourages unconditional love; a place which embraces our spirits and hearts; and act as a place, as many of our parents emphasized, that teaches us about faith, love, wisdom, peace and serenity. This seems no longer true in the majority of today's churches. Instead, we same-gender-loving folk are taught self hatred, fear, disconnection from our spiritual selves, and disconnection from others. It is my belief that this is why most of our brothers and sisters find it very difficult to succeed in same-gender-loving relationships. The church too often preaches a message that teaches us to hate ourselves; and this makes it difficult for us to love someone else no matter how much we want to love. We just can't! Thanks to many of our churches, we do not know how!

Many of today's churches also preach that homosexuality is an abomination to God -- the ultimate sin, and something that will cause us to burn in eternity. Basically, many churches choose to diminish our humanity and condemn our existence instead of embracing us, loving us and teaching us to love. This is a mentality and conditioning that I want all of our gay men and women to arrest! We need to arrest this orthodoxed miseducation that holds our spirits hostage and interferes with our awareness of how to love ourselves the way God loves us.

God loves us all for who we are!!! He loves our essence, our existence, our purpose, our missions, our successes, our souls, our hearts and our dreams! Now is the time for us to love ourselves and others totally and completely. By doing so, we can experience the successful same-gender-loving relationships which we long for, and the spiritual growth that will elevate our human condition. Finally, let me share with you my prayer for all of my same-gender-loving brothers and sisters: "To God! Keep our souls and our spirits in you hands and keep our flesh in your heart. Please continue to love us, bless us and teach us, and never let us go! May your divine love live throughout all of us totally, continuously and completely forever-more. All and only in the spirit of God. Amen!" ■

Honoring Bayard Rustin:

AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

January 17, 1999
Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Reception & Workshop
EMORY UNIVERSITY

For more information contact:
Eric Flavors (770) 473-7393,
or e-mail **FLAVORS@MINDSPRING.COM**

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301**

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

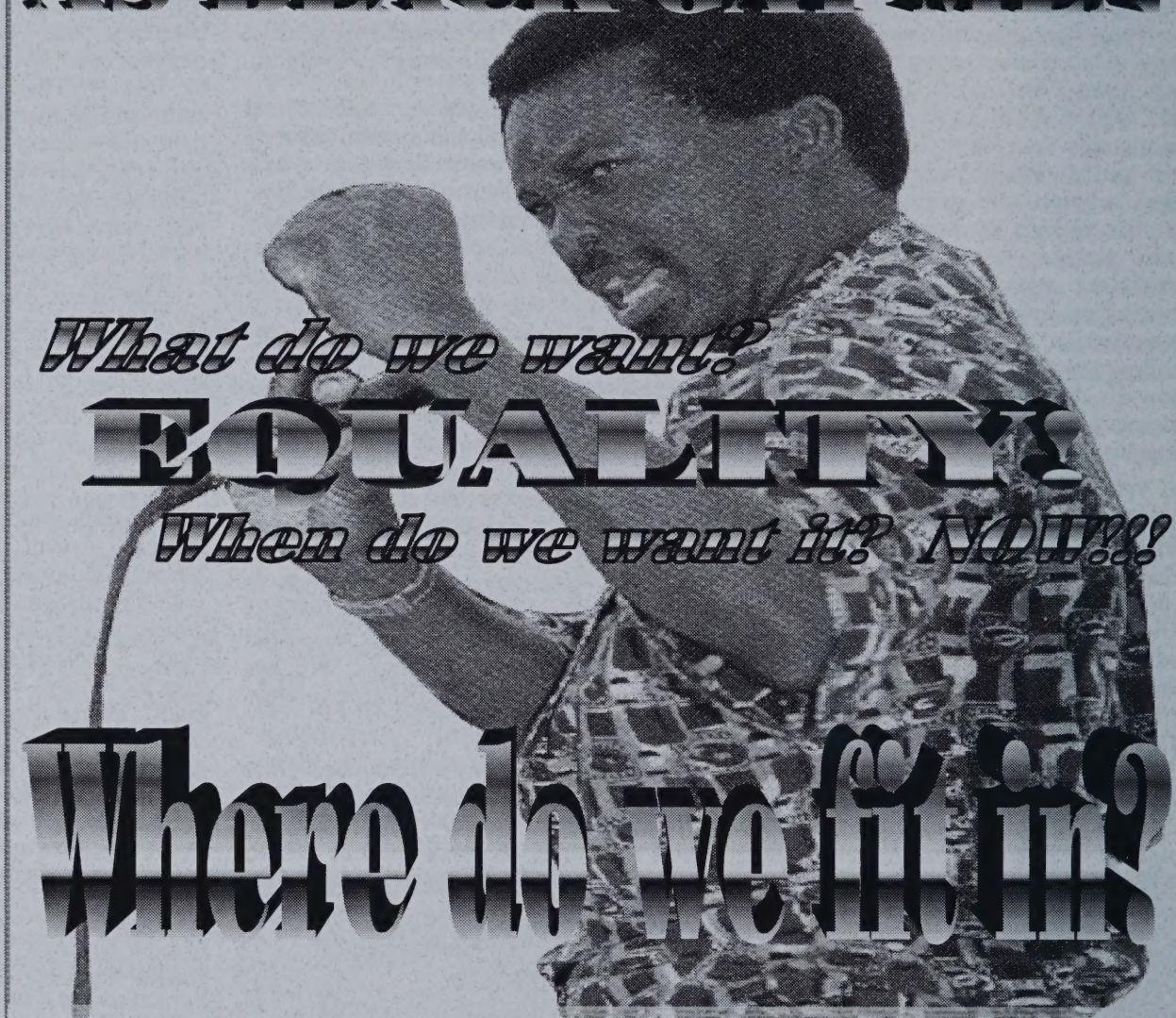
Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399

The deadline for submission of articles or commentaries for the next month's issue is the third Friday of the preceding month. The deadline for the February issue is January 15.

2ND SUNDAY

CIVIL RIGHTS AND US...
AS BLACK GAY MEN



What do we want?

EQUALITY!

When do we want it? NOW!!!

Where do we fit in?

What is Equality and what are Our Rights as Black Gay Men? Come join us as we begin this New Year with a discussion that is sure to change the way we look at Ourselves and Our Community.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

City Hall East • Phoenix Room

675 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, GA

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

allan f. reid BEST WISHES FOR 1999

1999 marks the end of the 20th Century and the beginning of the New Millenium. Once again, on behalf of the members of 40-PLUS, I extend to all of you, my brothers in SECOND SUNDAY, The Very Best For The New Year. MAY THE SUPREME BEING GRANT You The Desires Of Your Heart (this was taken in part from Psalm 37:4). For some inspiration, I urge you during one of your quiet moments to read Psalm 37 in its entirety.

The forces of negativity surround us daily. I hope that 40-PLUS a program of SECOND SUNDAY, will be one of the organizations on which you rely as a resource for combating these negative forces, maintaining stability in your lives, and helping you to embrace your brothers with Peace and Love.

SECOND SUNDAY and thus 40-PLUS needs your input to make it grow and to make it a viable group with the power to effect action in our community. Remember the saying: 'United We Stand, Divided We Fall'. My brothers, let us avoid tunnel vision when it comes to our organization. There are other sections in our community which need our assistance. By giving of our time and effort, be it financial or otherwise, to these causes, we can all help to improve how we feel about ourselves and thus improve our environment.

May the forces of good continually surround and protect us as we enter into the New Millenium. Again, My Best Wishes to all of you. ■

40-PLUS

JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY DISCUSSION MEETING

Sunday, January 24, 1999

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Atlanta Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street

A monthly forum examining the issues important to men approaching forty years of age and older.

Open to same gender loving men of African descent over the age of 35.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(404) 325-7321

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

2ND REACH

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF MY BROTHAZ KEEPER

keiron williams WANTED...MATURE GAYS

I was quite disturbed this past week with a conversation I had with a few senior brothers in the community. The subject of our discussion was "It makes no sense for young Black gay men to test HIV+ with all the information available to them." Of course this disturbed me because these men were not taking into consideration the life of young Black gay men. Many of you may say "what are you talking about? I am referring to the difficulties of negotiating relationships when one is first introduced to our "way of life." Go back in time if you can. Remember the first time you actively participated in a sex act with an adult male. What was it like? Pleasant? Horrible? Confusing? Exhilarating? Scary? Now fast forward to our present time. AIDS has been the hot topic for the past two decades and the messages have become boring and stale. There are medications now that prolong life. Magic Johnson says he is cured. And a host of other messages connote that the WAR is almost over or insignificant. Combine this reality with the yearnings and insecurities of being young, Black, gay and misunderstood; the feeling of being the only one or isolated; being harassed because YOU don't fit the mold. Or, imagine you are a young man who likes singing in the choir rather than playing football. Maybe you have a flair for the dramatic or are effeminate. Maybe you play sports but find it difficult to hide the erections you get from looking at your teammates or have erotic fantasies that involve locker room acrobatics. Whatever your difficulties are they represent a barrier for you to get what you want: another BOY.

Now consider some of the persons you first met "in the life." What were their characters like? Did they encourage you to do what is right and proper? Or did they encourage you to do what everyone else was doing? Consider if your role model advised you to think and act in a respectful way. Respecting both yourself and others. For those who served as positive role models, I give them my accolades and you should do the same. However, if your role models were anything like mine, I extend my sympathies. I first met drag queens who were unsavory at best. Then I met the "fuck them" before they "fuck you" crowd who encouraged loose sexual behaviors and preyed upon the naïve and inexperienced. I will not even delve into the "stunt", "crafty" check-writing crowd that delude many of the youth with illusions of wealth at the possible cost of their freedom.

So, envision a young man navigating these "torrential shark infested waters" of gay culture. Does it seem easy to differentiate the good, bad and ugly of it all with little or no experience? Perhaps it is not impossible, but it is exceedingly difficult. And where in the midst of all these issues does or should HIV fall? How important is HIV when you are home feeling rejected and dejected? How important is HIV when you think life for you may end any moment? How important is HIV when the boy of your dreams tells you that he loves you and wants to make love to you "naturally?"

The point I am making is one has to have or obtain certain negotiating abilities to assert themselves in the proper manner. Most of these skills have to be imparted by some adult in the young person's life. Usually a parent or a parent figure takes the responsibility in assisting a person through young adulthood. But who takes the responsibility with the gay young adult? While I admit some parents fulfill their responsibilities, many do not. This becomes a greater problem with gays because frequently they are perceived as "problems" or "embarrassments" to their families. Consequently, I propose that a different type of parent is needed for young gays -- mature gays. Who better understands the benefits and detriments of a homosexual life than an experienced gay male? I am not advocating that gay men usurp the power and responsibilities of parents, but I am stating that there is a large level of support that is owed to gay youth from mature gay men.

Many believe this idea is tantamount to opening Pandora's box. These people believe that mature gays are sexual predators that would enjoy nothing better than accosting young men. Although this perspective is awfully cynical, we all must admit that this opinion is valid for a small segment of our population -- simply put, the world is full of bad people. Conversely, there are exceptionally good people who enjoy nothing more than assisting youth in acquiring the skills necessary to negotiate a healthy gay life. I am of the opinion that these people are in great number only awaiting the opportunity or venue where they can offer their experiences and time. Only when all these forces combine -- family (biological or "selected"), information, good self-esteem, good self image, pride and good negotiating skills -- can we "expect" infection rates to decline. If these changes take effect en masse we can expect a revolution in gay life, community and in the world. So until this day comes we should all express a lot more compassion for newly infected brothers. Life is not easy without HIV and it surely ain't easy with it. So wake up my brothers and love each other in spite of all our shortcomings. Only together will we survive this plague. ■

2ND SUNDAY
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my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

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- Your confidentiality will be respected
- Every 3rd Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams, Co-Director

Kevin Bynes, Co-Director

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

darryl! l.c. moch EVEN IF YOU MUST STAND ALONE... YOU MUST STAND OR YOU WILL BE STOOD UPON!

WAKE UP!!!!!!!! WAKE UP!!!!!!!!! WAAAAAKE UUUUUUUP!!!!!!!!!!!!!! These famous words from a Spike Lee movie still ring out clearly at this epoch in our collective life and struggle, as a call to arms and action. The death of our community through blood shed, ostracism, and marginalization of our community will continue until WE make the choice to do something about it. To STOP it! To name it, call it out of hiding, expose it, and liberate it. In doing so we also liberate ourselves. Freedom is never given it is taken by the ones who want it the most. It is time for us to take and possess our freedom. Not just know that we "can", (as long as we don't tell the whole story), or "it's ok," (as long as we finesse the situation, while in public view). We must live our LIBERTY – live in it daily. We can only do this when we stand up for what we know to be truth.

During this time of the year we as Americans, and as African-Americans in particular, remember the sacrifice and words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a source of inspiration and pride. We listen to the rhetoric that was espoused during the so-called "civil rights era" and consider the relevance for our lives today. Well as African-American people who also are LGBT/SGL, or however we choose to identify, we need to take inventory of what has been accomplished and what has been left for the next generation to achieve. Where do we fit in the cauldron of emotions, voices, and actions that propel our community forward? Have we taken a place at the table of "brotherhood" or have we let ourselves be convinced that there in so place for us? Have we voluntarily given up our freedom and "right to be or exist" because of fear designed to keep us reacting out of shame rather than acting out of necessity? Are we holding ourselves back rather than taking ourselves forward?

As we remember King, we also take a look at, albeit brief, at other dynamic leaders, Harriet Tubman, Mary McCloud Bethune, Booker T. Washington, Malcom X, and others for proof of our former struggle and the drive to continue the fight for equality and justice. We then prepare to go into Black History month with new vigor and determination to uncover some secrets or bits of knowledge hidden from history by the former oppressors. We prepare ourselves for a war of words and bombardment of information for this and the next generation to absorb. We decide to push for renaming of buildings, streets, and libraries to signify the relevance of our people on the development of the "greatest country on earth." We spend enormous amounts of time searching the past to make our current lives meaningful. Beloved, I tell you our lives are meaningful and it is time to honor the past by claiming **TODAY** and **TOMORROW** for ourselves and our children on ***our own terms.***

When was the last time we took inventory of ourselves, our greatness, or accomplishments? When was the last time we took a good look in the mirror or our collective visage and liked (no, loved) what we saw? When was the last time we accepted our faults and worked to improve ourselves, took responsibility for the state of our community because of the work we did or left undone? Carpe Diem, seize the day! The time is now! The chance to live is upon us. Take it while it can be taken. ***Stand up, speak out, tell the truth, march down the street with PRIDE!!!*** Live your life to the fullest. Let Dr. King's words resonate in your soul and know why for yourself: "Why we ***still*** can't wait." Remember the lives of those who died in the middle passage, they died for YOU too. Remember the beatings, sacrifices, pilgrimages, and accomplishments of the ancestors and elders, they were for YOU as much as anyone else. They are your heritage and birth right. Finally, beloved, consider timeless words of the great Maya Angelou and find your place in OUR STORY, now: "...and still I rise... I rise, I rise, ***I*** rise!" ■

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NBLGLF
NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP FORUM

ABOUT THE FORUM

What is the Forum?
The Forum is the only national organization dedicated to empowering the nation's 2.5 million Black lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people. We have thousands of members, who come from all 50 states and several foreign countries, from urban, suburban, and rural communities, and from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

What does the Forum do?
The Forum empowers Black lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people by:
Advocating our interests on a local, state, and national level
Educating the public about our lives and contributions
Increasing visibility with the media
Developing strong leaders for the future
Building bridges between our community and others

National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum
1612 K Street, NW -- Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202-483-6786
Fax: 202-483-4790
nblglf@nblglf.org

2ND BIZ

The BUSINESS CORNER

darrol c. de andre

CONCIERGE FOR COUPLES?

As the adage goes: if you build it they will come. Another continuing maxim resounds: if you build a better mousetrap the world will beat a path to your door. These tenors consistently served as the sustenance of entrepreneurial drives and successes predating the industrial revolution. A belief in self and in what you offer, coupled with what my former partner termed "a larcenous ambition to exploit the marketplace" (but, he meant it in a good way), provides the necessary force to encourage business men and women to brave all odds to achieve greatness on their terms, and their own rules of business savvy. In this and the coming months, **The Business Corner** will spotlight those entrepreneurs, professionals and service providers in our community vying for our disposable incomes. We hope and expect that you will be enlightened, enriched, and encouraged by their ambitions, philosophies, successes and services to the community.

Vera Dudley, President of Rendezvous For Two, Inc. (RFT) of Marietta, Georgia, is one such entrepreneur. It seems that everyone is searching for the answer to the age-old question of how to keep the home fire burning in relationships. RFT, an event planning service for couples, offers an answer by providing a personalized, all-inclusive romantic interlude with one's significant other without the planning hassles! Vera surmises that today men and women are stretched very thin with juggling the demands of job, family, friends and civic responsibilities, and therefore find it difficult – and some even say impossible – to spend quality time with their significant other. RFT steps up to the plate for these 'too busy to play' couples by either creating or helping them create the perfect surprise rendezvous to capture the quality time and privacy they desire and need to rejuvenate and keep the magic in their relationship. "People tend to pull out all the stops on Valentine's Day or other special occasions and events," states Vera. "Unfortunately, they've forgotten that romance is just like a baby – it needs to feel love and be nurtured everyday! Every day of the year can be as romantic and fulfilling as Valentine's Day, if not more so, if couples take a moment each day to celebrate their love and nurture their romantic needs."

John Gray, noted author of the infamous relationship book Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus, suggests that the problem in today's relationships is that people expect romance to happen all by itself, and when it begins to wear off they assume that something is wrong. Instead of drawing this conclusion, people should find ways to resurrect the romance they once enjoyed by remembering what they did and how they behaved in the beginning of the relationship. A perfect way to rekindle the passion is an impulsive getaway such as those created and planned by RFT. RFT works with gay-friendly 'bed & breakfasts', major hotels and a cabin resort in the Atlanta area. The company services those living in or visiting the Atlanta area. "We are a **'Concierge for Couples'.** We not only have conceptualized romance packages that include more that the run of the mill champagne and roses, but we get to the destination prior to their arrival and adorn the room with whatever they desire. We'll even pay attention to the small details such as dimming the lights, drawing the drapes, turning down the bed, fragrancing the room and sprinkling rose petal trails, just to name a few. The possibilities are endless: a cabin retreat that includes a candlelit dinner for two; a passion-filled picnic lunch; a secret garden filled with wild flowers; and to top it off, a horse drawn carriage ride after dark? It tells and shows them how much you love and care for them."

At first blush, one might think these services are only for the "bourgie" or the elite, (well, it was my first notion); however, Vera admonishes, "Do not underestimate my market. I've had clerks buy full packages and heads of companies go the cheap route. The point is **everyone** wants the red carpet laid out for them at one point or another. Rendezvous helps one person show another how much they are cherished -- and we do it in style." She continues, "Love is a two-way street that requires commitment from each partner. Each person must be willing to give more than 50% so that neither has to question who gave the most. The home fire will continue burning endlessly as long as they each add a piece of kindling from time to time to keep the sparks flying!"

Well, all I can say is, "You Go Girl!" For those of you pondering what to give the love of your life for their next birthday, or anniversary, or this Valentine's Day you may want to give Rendezvous For Two some serious consideration. For me a romantic rendezvous, not my stomach as mother suggested, is the quickest way to this man's heart. Vera also suggests that if you are interested in self-pampering, introspection and the liberation that time alone can often provide, any package can be designed exclusively for one person. ■

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2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I have been seeing a married man for the past six months. He does a very good job of fulfilling my emotional and physical needs. Overall, our arrangement provides me with the emotional and physical attention I need without having to deal with the additional pressures of a relationship.

There was one time when I considered ending our arrangement because he was married. However, I realized that he has needs that are not being met by his marriage, and if those needs are not being met with me they will be met elsewhere and I might as well be the one to benefit from him fulfilling those needs.

I am a firm believer that what goes around come around. My intentions for this arrangement are not bad. I am concerned that if I were to be in a "true" relationship one day this may come back to me in the form of my lover cheating on me. I do not feel my intentions are bad since my goal is to maintain a healthy, stable, environment for him to express and fulfill his feelings toward men. Do you feel the fact that I am having an affair with a married man will come back to haunt me one day although my intentions are good?

--The Mister

Hi Mister:

First, I noted that at no point during your comments did you address the one person in this situation who apparently knows nothing about this affair: your lover's wife. For a moment place yourself in her position. How much sympathy and understanding would you have for her "good intentions" if she were the other person in your mate's life? How much comfort would it give you to know that your husband not only cheated on you, but with someone of the opposite sex? When you reflect on all this, consider how far your intentions really go to justifying your behavior.

Second, the old biblical adage that "you reap what you sow" is a truism that proves itself over and over again. How can you expect to ultimately find a healthy relationship until and unless you act as if you deserve one? While you are spending your precious time on a man that cares more for himself than you, the person with whom you might experience a healthy love can not reach you. You also say that your goal is to maintain a "...healthy, stable, environment..." But a healthy and stable environment can not coexist in an atmosphere of dishonesty, secrecy and infidelity.

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER & CLUB FUSION
: PRESENTS :
Hot Male Dance Party
PHAT FUSION FRIDAYS
Jan. 8
Featuring Guest DJ -- House
Resident DJ Smash /Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
Jan. 15
M.L.K. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. Theme: BLACK POWER
Featuring DJ Kurt/DC -- House
Resident DJ Smash / Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
Jan. 22
Featuring Guest DJ -- House
Resident DJ Smash /Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
Jan. 29
FUSION's 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY Party
Featuring: DJ Kurt/DJ Sedric/DC -- House
Resident DJ Smash -- Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
FRIDAYS Doors Open at 10:30 PM
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website: www.bgmtatlanta.com/fusion
The Music Box Dance Party
HOT FUDGE SUNDAES
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Jan. 17
M.L.K. CELEBRATION. Theme: WE SHALL OVERCOME
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SUNDAYS Doors Open at 12:00 Midnight
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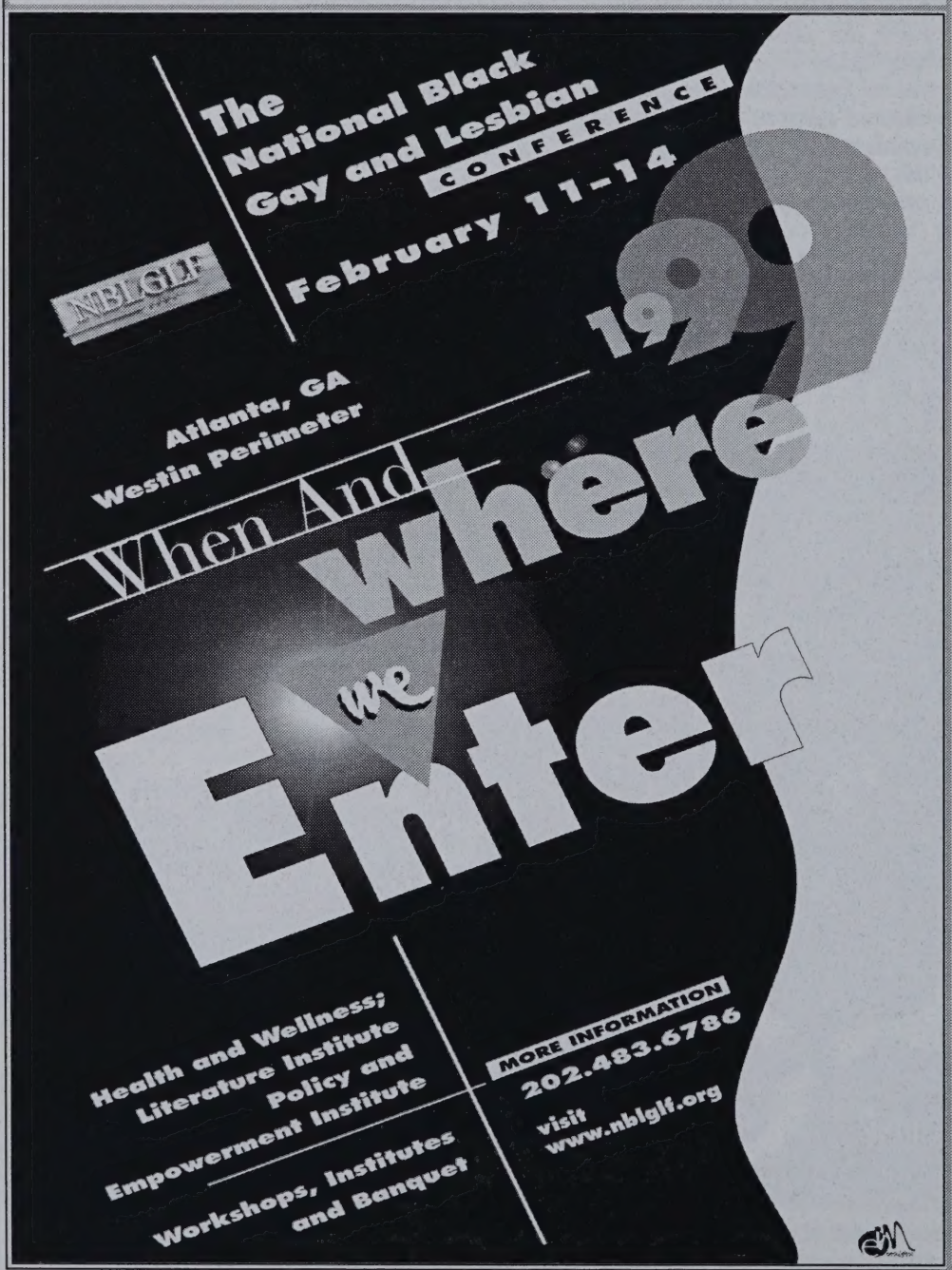
The 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference and Institutes

1999: When and Where We Enter

FEBRUARY 11-14, 1999 • ATLANTA, GA.

In designing the **12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference** (NBLGLC) theme, **1999: When and Where We Enter**, we want to focus our attention on the manner in which we will enter a new millennium, full of, and ready to embrace, power and its inherent responsibilities. During 1998, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum has hosted community forums in cities across the country in an effort to assess the status of our community. The 12th annual NBLGLC, therefore, provides an obvious opportunity to expand upon questions raised during these community meetings... and then do something... to move... to act... to try. Surely, this is a good time to sit down, act upon, and address the serious business of the acquisition of power.



The 1999 NBLGLC consists of four complete days of skills training, networking, capacity building and educational opportunities. Features include the new Literature Institute and the Health and Wellness Institute on Thursday. The power-centered Policy and Empowerment Institute on Friday and the Conference Workshop Session on Saturday and Sunday finish the schedule.

Like each of the past eleven conferences, the 1999 NBLGLC provides an opportunity for lesbians and gay men of African descent from across the U.S. and from around the world to meet each other. We want you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to assist in the development of the Black LGBT agenda and to allow participants to gain personal, professional, and technical skills.

Make your plans to attend the 1999 NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE today! For more information about what's in store, for workshop proposal, hotel and other information please contact the 1999 Conference Coordinator via phone, at **202.483.6786**, via e-mail at **ForumConf@aol.com**, or via the web at **www.nblglf.org**

In Motion,

Debra Rose and Stephan Oxendine
Chairs,
National Conference Committee

Kenyatta Dorey Graves
Conference Coordinator

Gail Booker and Eric J. Flavors
Chairs - Atlanta Host Committee

Willa J. Taylor
Chairperson - Board of Directors

Thursday, **February 11, 1999** through
Sunday, **February 14, 1999**

Westin Atlanta North
at Perimeter Mall
Atlanta, Georgia

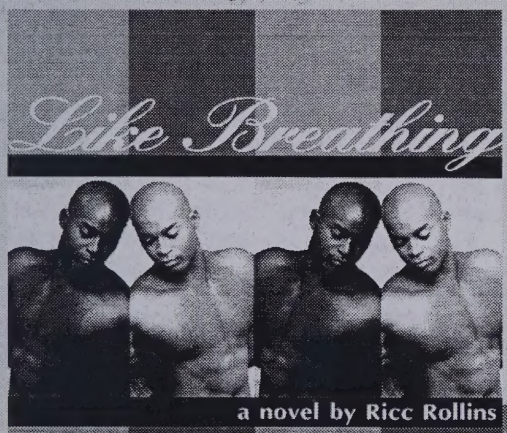
2ND SUNDAY

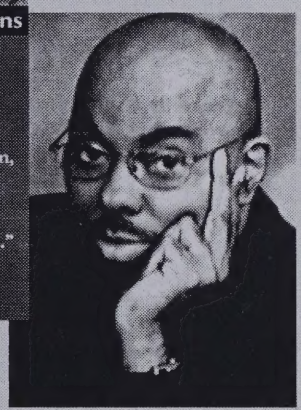
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

January Book Pic:
"Like Breathing", by Ricc Rollins


Like Breathing
a novel by Ricc Rollins
"With characters so true to life that you've likely met them, and situations so real that you've experienced them (or know someone who has) *Like Breathing* will touch you in a way that only something as intimate and personal as breathing can."
–Trevy A. McDonald, author of *Time Will Tell*



Visit the website:
www.likebreathing.com

Premiering January 21, 1999

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY and author Ricc Rollins for the first Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB, to discuss his new book "Like Breathing."

"Like Breathing is a breath of fresh air... The characters are fresh, witty and real... Move over E. Lynn Harris, Ricc Rollins has arrived... I loved it tender!!!"

--Tony Turner, bestselling author of All That Glittered: My Life With The Supremes, and Deliver Us From Temptation: The True & Shocking Story Of The Temptations And Motown

Ricc Rollins is an award-winning talk show host, ordained minister and proud father of two, turned author. He matriculated at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, majoring in business. He has appeared on nationally syndicated talk shows, Geraldo, Donahue and The Jane Whitney Show discussing issues of male sexual abuse and survivorship.

This Month's Book Pic Available at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN

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THE SOUTH'S SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR LIVES

January COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Friday, 1/08/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSIONS. The Men of SECOND SUNDAY and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) host a night of Partying! and Fun! at CLUB FUSION located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Sunday, 1/10/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "CIVIL RIGHTS AND US ... AS BLACK GAY MEN." SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held each second Sunday at City Hall East - Phoenix Room, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 1/17/99

5:00 p.m. Honoring Bayard Rustin: AN EVENING OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION. Reception and Workshop to be held at Emory University. Call Eric Flavors at (770) 473-7393 for more information.

Sunday, 1/17/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 1/24/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; open to same-gender-loving Men of African Descent over the age of 35. This monthly forum addresses the issues important to men approaching forty years of age and older. Meetings are held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 1/31/99

6:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Meeting, to be held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

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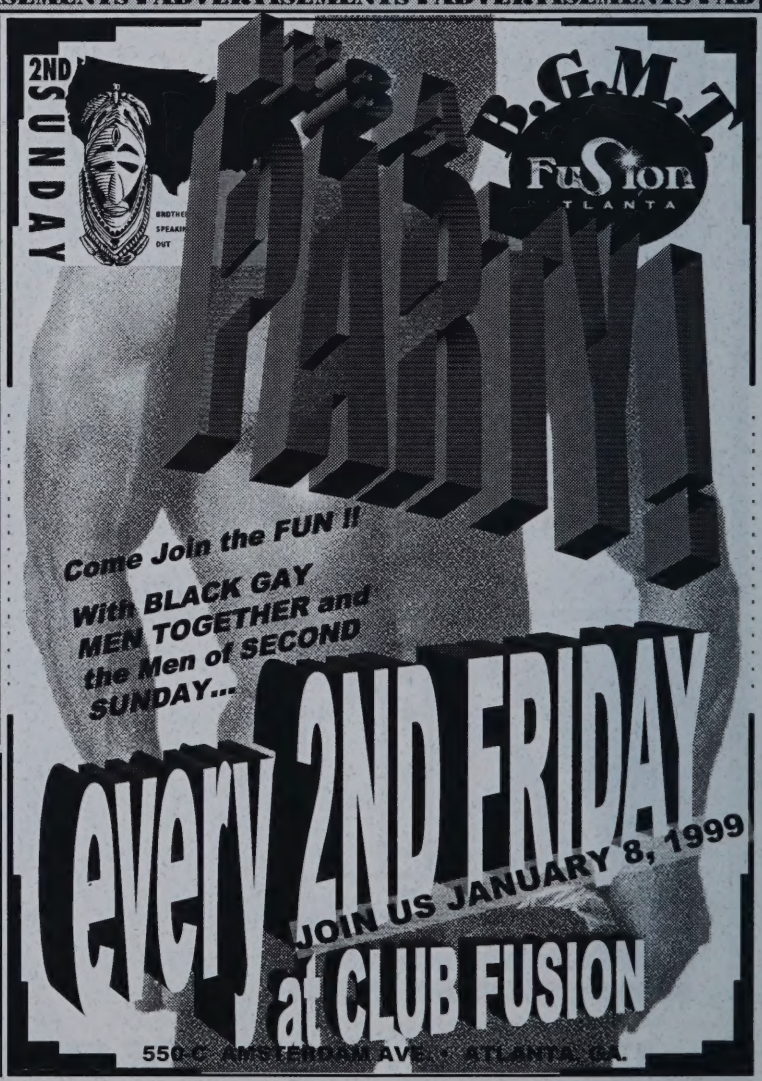
2ND SUNDAY
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every 2ND FRIDAY
JOIN US JANUARY 8, 1999
at CLUB FUSION
550-C AMSTERDAM AVE. - ATLANTA, GA.

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

January 1999
Vol. 3
No. 1

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

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2ND SAY — *a message from our* CHAIR

robert mathis **PROPOSED BYLAWS OF SECOND SUNDAY**

As we begin the New Year we also approach the end of our sixth year as an organization. It seems we only just celebrated our fifth anniversary! Time continues to move and take no hostages, however. So it is fitting that we mark this period in our history with a proposal for major change; a change which reflects our own growth as an organization while maintaining the traditions of SECOND SUNDAY's ancestry. The **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY** is the agent for this change. The members of SECOND SUNDAY will be voting on this document at the next membership meeting scheduled later this month. Why new bylaws? There are a number of reasons, but I will briefly discuss four of them here.

First, our membership has changed. We are no longer a small group of brothers getting together monthly at one of our homes. We have grown into an organization with over 125 paid members, and with up to over 225 same-gender-loving Men of African Descent attending our monthly 2ND SUNDAY meetings. Implicit in this growth is more diversity. We are a group made up of different sizes, shapes, shades, educational backgrounds, socio-economic statuses, etc. We have different wants and needs and on some level would like SECOND SUNDAY to address these. Though the organization's mission remains the same, the ways in which we achieve our objectives have changed.

Second, we need to start operating more like a business. Achieving many of our objectives requires money. Many of the meetings (committees, programs, membership, etc.) are held in spaces which are not free. Maintaining a post office box, voicemail, newsletter, supplies, and the like require even more money. Mailing our information to folk on our mailing list requires money. I think you get the point: we need money to operate. By positioning the organization to run more like a business we can incorporate and change our tax status; this move would allow us to access different revenue sources and enjoy tax breaks.

Third, we need to streamline our decision making process. We have scaled the leadership from a system of two Co-Coordinators for each Standing Committee/Program to one Director for each of these Committees/Programs. Our governing body now consists of twelve (12) members rather than the original twenty (20). Finally, the Executive Committee consists of one chairman and one vice-chairman instead of two co-chairs.

Fourth, we need more accountability. We moved the governing arm of the organization, the Steering Committee, to a Board of Directors which will supervise, control and direct the management, affairs and property of the organization. In sum, the **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY** marks a major shift for SECOND SUNDAY. The current leadership of SECOND SUNDAY is presenting these bylaws because we believe it is in line with the direction our membership voted on last year. We ask that you plan to attend and vote on this document at the membership meeting planned for January 31, 1999. Copies of the **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY** are available. All members of SECOND SUNDAY who are either current in their dues or who paid through December 31st of last year are eligible to receive the **Proposed Bylaws of SECOND SUNDAY**. You may pick up your copy at the January 10th SECOND SUNDAY meeting at City Hall East. Since the bylaws will not be mailed, it is important that you pick up your copy on this date. Only paid members who are current with their dues will be allowed to attend the Membership meeting January 31, 1999. I look forward to seeing all of you then. ■

INSIDE this Issue

2 Somethin' for the Cynics
3 God Loves You!
5 Best Wishes for 1999
6 Wanted…Mature Gays
7 Even If You Must Stand Alone…
8 Concierge for Couples?
9 Call Tyrone
Announcements / Advertisements

*2ND READ is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of SECOND SUNDAY. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at **404.325.7321**, or e-mail us at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org***

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S desk

richard s. moultrie, jr. SOMETHIN' FOR THE CYNICS

I am always disheartened by the number of people I meet who question my involvement in and with SECOND SUNDAY. Some of their concerns are ones with which I sympathize, so I will address those first. Many disapprove of SECOND SUNDAY's practice of encouraging attendees to discuss their private, and sometimes painful, experiences in a public forum (at times attendance at monthly meetings reaches 200). These pundits shake their heads in confusion and bewilderment when I defend our organization's manner of requesting members and visitors to speak about themselves when addressing the discussion topics. At times, for instance, I disclose some of the most personal details about my life and experiences when a particular subject moves me. I do so not only in the hope of benefiting others through lessons I learned (or missed), but also to further my own healing through confession and discussion. Still, I appreciate that everyone is not comfortable engaging in this type of dialogue among strangers; and for those who care not to speak, there does exist the option of listening.

As I said, I do sympathize with these privacy concerns. However, some of the naysayers I encounter offend me entirely by their comments. Some dismiss SECOND SUNDAY as a meat market. My response to this criticism is that I do not choose to advertise my bodily wares to bargain hunters (art dealers excepted). As a result, I do not concern myself with those brothers solely interested in Second Sunday for its marketplace potential. Now, you may notice that I specifically included the "solely" in the above statement. I did so because I encourage brothers to utilize SECOND DUNDAY as a venue for meeting quality people. Few would argue that private parties and other public places like theaters and concerts should be avoided for meeting potential partners. So why should critics reject a forum like SECOND SUNDAY as a conduit for screening eligible men? Providing the space for brothers to meet, perhaps find a date and exchange ideas, are not and should not be mutually exclusive goals.

Next, I meet those that insist that SECOND SUNDAY members act "shady" and cliquish. Well, I am all about sunshine. Consequently, "cloudy" folk may venture into my space, but they seldom tarry. In other words, to this group of cynics I recommend the following advice as an alternative to otherwise missing out on what our organization offers: employ the same methods to avoid shady and cliquish people at SECOND SUNDAY as you would use in any other environment.

Finally, I am most disturbed by people who suggest to me that a group like SECOND SUNDAY should have little to offer a man of my "talent" and "intelligence." First, I am always stunned by the ignorance of this comment, since I certainly do not occupy a premium on talent or intelligence when compared to other members of our group. Our organization proudly boasts a membership and visitor roster which consists of brothers from varied socio-economic and academic backgrounds. Second, I assume that those who make this statement either do not or can not discern the layer of elitism which thickly coats this kind of remark. I too enjoy intimate and lofty intellectual intercourse with small coteries of friends at chic coffeehouses. But I also enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie afforded in larger group dynamics like SECOND SUNDAY. Both settings provide stimulation and escape. Both settings allow for enlightenment and lively debate. And neither setting robs me of a choice to simply remain at home if I suspect that the talk and company will be unappealing. ■

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Assoc. Director, Public Relations

Robert Mathis
Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Craig Washington
Vice-Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Staff Writers
Allan F. Reid
Keiron Williams
Darryl! L. C. Moch

Graphics/Layout
Ronald Spencer
Darrol C. De Andre

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 JANUARY 1999

08 B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY
2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSION
Friday, JANUARY 8, 1998 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

10 2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting
CIVIL RIGHTS & US...As Black Gay Men
Sunday, JANUARY 10, 1998 • 6:30 PM
CITY HALL EAST - PHOENIX ROOM
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA

21 SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB
"Like Breathing" by Rice Rollins
Thursday, JANUARY 21, 1998 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

a LETTER to the editor

drevan Jointer GOD LOVES YOU!

2ND REPLY

One second Sunday evening I was the first to arrive at the hall. I started setting out tables when two gentlemen arrived. I introduced myself and so did they. One of the brothers remarked that this was his first time attending SECOND SUNDAY. The other gentleman said that he had attended previously. We had begun to talk about God, religion, and spirituality when the brother visiting for the first time shared with me that he was a minister and struggling with his sexuality. After hearing me speak so positively about the organization, as well as my own spiritual philosophy, he asked me for advice on how to deal with his struggle. For a moment I was speechless. I was not sure what to say.

Then I began reflecting on some advice I received from a dear friend when I was experiencing similar challenges. So I said to his visitor, "Your being gay is okay!" Also, I said, "God loves you totally and completely for who you are. Now it is time that you do the same." He gave me a look like, "Wow," and received my comments gracefully. This brother's struggles are not different from those many of us experience, or have experienced in the past. We struggle with ourselves and with believing that God does not love us or want us because we are gay. Through prayer, meditation and allowing my spirit to connect with the spirit of God, I found that these beliefs are completely untrue! God loves us and he has always loved us.

Unfortunately, it is often our churches that instill this conditioning in our minds. The church should serve as a place that encourages unconditional love; a place which embraces our spirits and hearts; and act as a place, as many of our parents emphasized, that teaches us about faith, love, wisdom, peace and serenity. This seems no longer true in the majority of today's churches. Instead, we same-gender-loving folk are taught self hatred, fear, disconnection from our spiritual selves, and disconnection from others. It is my belief that this is why most of our brothers and sisters find it very difficult to succeed in same-gender-loving relationships. The church too often preaches a message that teaches us to hate ourselves; and this makes it difficult for us to love someone else no matter how much we want to love. We just can't! Thanks to many of our churches, we do not know how!

Many of today's churches also preach that homosexuality is an abomination to God -- the ultimate sin, and something that will cause us to burn in eternity. Basically, many churches choose to diminish our humanity and condemn our existence instead of embracing us, loving us and teaching us to love. This is a mentality and conditioning that I want all of our gay men and women to arrest! We need to arrest this orthodoxed miseducation that holds our spirits hostage and interferes with our awareness of how to love ourselves the way God loves us.

God loves us all for who we are!!! He loves our essence, our existence, our purpose, our missions, our successes, our souls, our hearts and our dreams! Now is the time for us to love ourselves and others totally and completely. By doing so, we can experience the successful same-gender-loving relationships which we long for, and the spiritual growth that will elevate our human condition. Finally, let me share with you my prayer for all of my same-gender-loving brothers and sisters: "To God! Keep our souls and our spirits in you hands and keep our flesh in your heart. Please continue to love us, bless us and teach us, and never let us go! May your divine love live throughout all of us totally, continuously and completely forever-more. All and only in the spirit of God. Amen!" ■

Honoring Bayard Rustin:

AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

January 17, 1999
Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Reception & Workshop
EMORY UNIVERSITY

For more information contact:
Eric Flavors (770) 473-7393,
or e-mail **FLAVORS@MINDSPRING.COM**

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301**

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

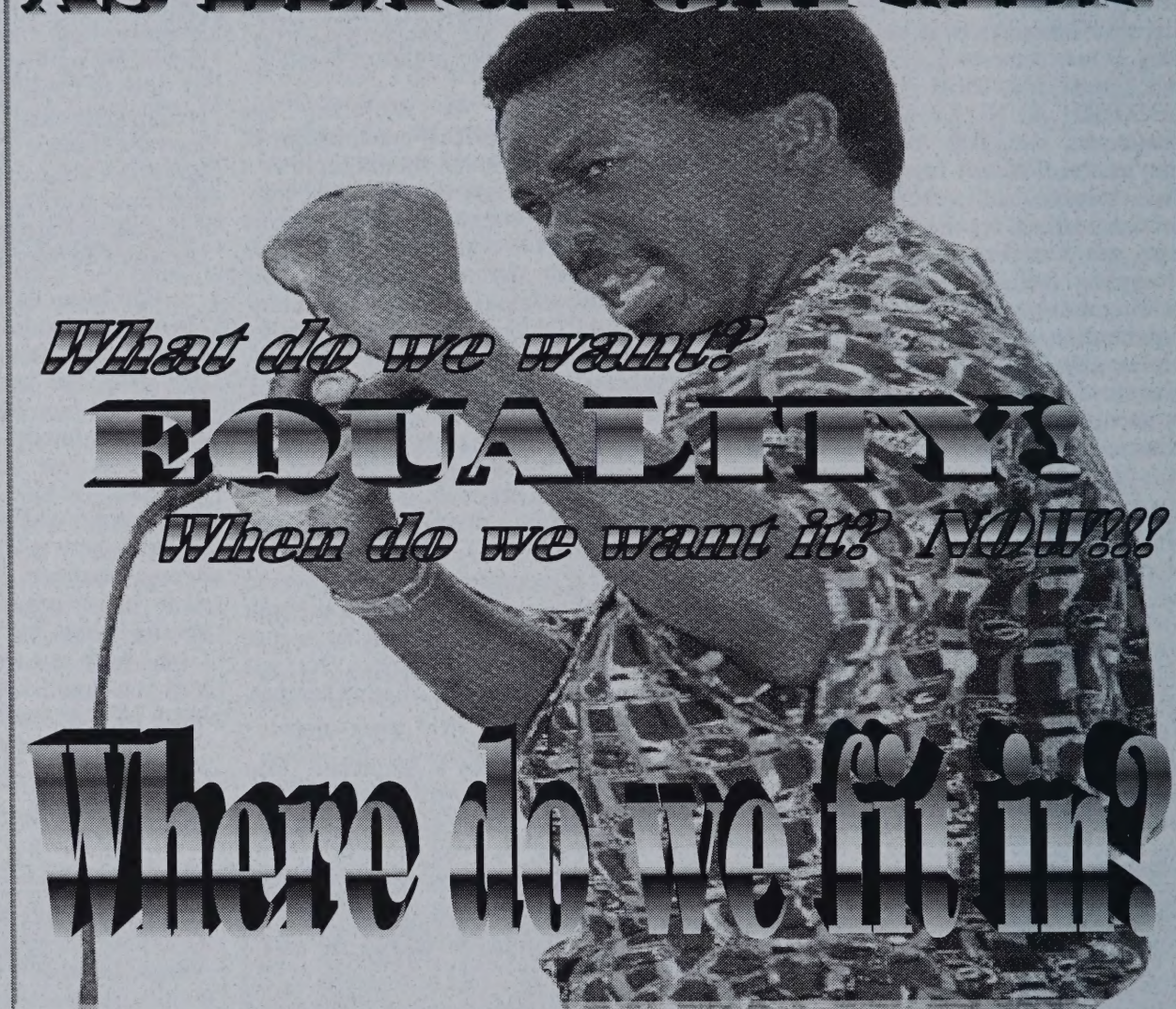
Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399

The deadline for submission of articles or commentaries for the next month's issue is the third Friday of the preceding month. The deadline for the February issue is January 15.

2ND SUNDAY

CIVIL RIGHTS AND US
AS BLACK GAY MEN



What do we want?

EQUALITY.

When do we want it? NOW!!!

Where do we fit in?

What is Equality and what are Our Rights as Black Gay Men? Come join us as we begin this New Year with a discussion that is sure to change the way we look at Ourselves and Our Community.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

City Hall East • Phoenix Room

675 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, GA

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

allan f. reid BEST WISHES FOR 1999

1999 marks the end of the 20th Century and the beginning of the New Millenium. Once again, on behalf of the members of 40-PLUS, I extend to all of you, my brothers in SECOND SUNDAY, The Very Best For The New Year. MAY THE SUPREME BEING GRANT You The Desires Of Your Heart (this was taken in part from Psalm 37:4). For some inspiration, I urge you during one of your quiet moments to read Psalm 37 in its entirety.

The forces of negativity surround us daily. I hope that 40-PLUS a program of SECOND SUNDAY, will be one of the organizations on which you rely as a resource for combating these negative forces, maintaining stability in your lives, and helping you to embrace your brothers with Peace and Love.

SECOND SUNDAY and thus 40-PLUS needs your input to make it grow and to make it a viable group with the power to effect action in our community. Remember the saying: 'United We Stand, Divided We Fall'. My brothers, let us avoid tunnel vision when it comes to our organization. There are other sections in our community which need our assistance. By giving of our time and effort, be it financial or otherwise, to these causes, we can all help to improve how we feel about ourselves and thus improve our environment.

May the forces of good continually surround and protect us as we enter into the New Millenium. Again, My Best Wishes to all of you. ■

40-PLUS

JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY DISCUSSION MEETING

Sunday, January 24, 1999

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Atlanta Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street

A monthly forum examining the issues important to men approaching forty years of age and older.

Open to same gender loving men of African descent over the age of 35.

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(404) 325-7321

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

2ND REACH

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF MY BROTHAZ KEEPER

keiron williams WANTED...MATURE GAYS

I was quite disturbed this past week with a conversation I had with a few senior brothers in the community. The subject of our discussion was "It makes no sense for young Black gay men to test HIV+ with all the information available to them." Of course this disturbed me because these men were not taking into consideration the life of young Black gay men. Many of you may say "what are you talking about? I am referring to the difficulties of negotiating relationships when one is first introduced to our "way of life." Go back in time if you can. Remember the first time you actively participated in a sex act with an adult male. What was it like? Pleasant? Horrible? Confusing? Exhilarating? Scary? Now fast forward to our present time. AIDS has been the hot topic for the past two decades and the messages have become boring and stale. There are medications now that prolong life. Magic Johnson says he is cured. And a host of other messages connote that the WAR is almost over or insignificant. Combine this reality with the yearnings and insecurities of being young, Black, gay and misunderstood; the feeling of being the only one or isolated; being harassed because YOU don't fit the mold. Or, imagine you are a young man who likes singing in the choir rather than playing football. Maybe you have a flair for the dramatic or are effeminate. Maybe you play sports but find it difficult to hide the erections you get from looking at your teammates or have erotic fantasies that involve locker room acrobatics. Whatever your difficulties are they represent a barrier for you to get what you want: another BOY.

Now consider some of the persons you first met "in the life." What were their characters like? Did they encourage you to do what is right and proper? Or did they encourage you to do what everyone else was doing? Consider if your role model advised you to think and act in a respectful way. Respecting both yourself and others. For those who served as positive role models, I give them my accolades and you should do the same. However, if your role models were anything like mine, I extend my sympathies. I first met drag queens who were unsavory at best. Then I met the "fuck them" before they "fuck you" crowd who encouraged loose sexual behaviors and preyed upon the naïve and inexperienced. I will not even delve into the "stunt", "crafty" check-writing crowd that delude many of the youth with illusions of wealth at the possible cost of their freedom.

So, envision a young man navigating these "torrential shark infested waters" of gay culture. Does it seem easy to differentiate the good, bad and ugly of it all with little or no experience? Perhaps it is not impossible, but it is exceedingly difficult. And where in the midst of all these issues does or should HIV fall? How important is HIV when you are home feeling rejected and dejected? How important is HIV when you think life for you may end any moment? How important is HIV when the boy of your dreams tells you that he loves you and wants to make love to you "naturally?"

The point I am making is one has to have or obtain certain negotiating abilities to assert themselves in the proper manner. Most of these skills have to be imparted by some adult in the young person's life. Usually a parent or a parent figure takes the responsibility in assisting a person through young adulthood. But who takes the responsibility with the gay young adult? While I admit some parents fulfill their responsibilities, many do not. This becomes a greater problem with gays because frequently they are perceived as "problems" or "embarrassments" to their families. Consequently, I propose that a different type of parent is needed for young gays -- mature gays. Who better understands the benefits and detriments of a homosexual life than an experienced gay male? I am not advocating that gay men usurp the power and responsibilities of parents, but I am stating that there is a large level of support that is owed to gay youth from mature gay men.

Many believe this idea is tantamount to opening Pandora's box. These people believe that mature gays are sexual predators that would enjoy nothing better than accosting young men. Although this perspective is awfully cynical, we all must admit that this opinion is valid for a small segment of our population -- simply put, the world is full of bad people. Conversely, there are exceptionally good people who enjoy nothing more than assisting youth in acquiring the skills necessary to negotiate a healthy gay life. I am of the opinion that these people are in great number only awaiting the opportunity or venue where they can offer their experiences and time. Only when all these forces combine -- family (biological or "selected"), information, good self-esteem, good self image, pride and good negotiating skills -- can we "expect" infection rates to decline. If these changes take effect en masse we can expect a revolution in gay life, community and in the world. So until this day comes we should all express a lot more compassion for newly infected brothers. Life is not easy without HIV and it surely ain't easy with it. So wake up my brothers and love each other in spite of all our shortcomings. Only together will we survive this plague. ■

2ND SUNDAY
sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

• Your confidentiality will be respected
• Every 3rd Sunday
• 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
• Atlanta Lambda Center
828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams, Co-Director

Kevin Bynes, Co-Director

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

darryl! l.c. moch EVEN IF YOU MUST STAND ALONE... YOU MUST STAND OR YOU WILL BE STOOD UPON!

WAKE UP!!!!!!!! WAKE UP!!!!!!!! WAAAAAKE UUUUUUUP!!!!!!!!!!!!! These famous words from a Spike Lee movie still ring out clearly at this epoch in our collective life and struggle, as a call to arms and action. The death of our community through blood shed, ostracism, and marginalization of our community will continue until WE make the choice to do something about it. To STOP it! To name it, call it out of hiding, expose it, and liberate it. In doing so we also liberate ourselves. Freedom is never given it is taken by the ones who want it the most. It is time for us to take and possess our freedom. Not just know that we "can", (as long as we don't tell the whole story), or "it's ok," (as long as we finesse the situation, while in public view). We must live our LIBERTY – live in it daily. We can only do this when we stand up for what we know to be truth.

During this time of the year we as Americans, and as African-Americans in particular, remember the sacrifice and words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a source of inspiration and pride. We listen to the rhetoric that was espoused during the so-called "civil rights era" and consider the relevance for our lives today. Well as African-American people who also are LGBT/SGL, or however we choose to identify, we need to take inventory of what has been accomplished and what has been left for the next generation to achieve. Where do we fit in the cauldron of emotions, voices, and actions that propel our community forward? Have we taken a place at the table of "brotherhood" or have we let ourselves be convinced that there in so place for us? Have we voluntarily given up our freedom and "right to be or exist" because of fear designed to keep us reacting out of shame rather than acting out of necessity? Are we holding ourselves back rather than taking ourselves forward?

As we remember King, we also take a look at, albeit brief, at other dynamic leaders, Harriet Tubman, Mary McCloud Bethune, Booker T. Washington, Malcom X, and others for proof of our former struggle and the drive to continue the fight for equality and justice. We then prepare to go into Black History month with new vigor and determination to uncover some secrets or bits of knowledge hidden from history by the former oppressors. We prepare ourselves for a war of words and bombardment of information for this and the next generation to absorb. We decide to push for renaming of buildings, streets, and libraries to signify the relevance of our people on the development of the "greatest country on earth." We spend enormous amounts of time searching the past to make our current lives meaningful. Beloved, I tell you our lives are meaningful and it is time to honor the past by claiming **TODAY** and **TOMORROW** for ourselves and our children on ***our own terms.***

When was the last time we took inventory of ourselves, our greatness, or accomplishments? When was the last time we took a good look in the mirror or our collective visage and liked (no, loved) what we saw? When was the last time we accepted our faults and worked to improve ourselves, took responsibility for the state of our community because of the work we did or left undone? Carpe Diem, seize the day! The time is now! The chance to live is upon us. Take it while it can be taken. ***Stand up, speak out, tell the truth, march down the street with PRIDE!!!*** Live your life to the fullest. Let Dr. King's words resonate in your soul and know why for yourself: "Why we ***still*** can't wait." Remember the lives of those who died in the middle passage, they died for YOU too. Remember the beatings, sacrifices, pilgrimages, and accomplishments of the ancestors and elders, they were for YOU as much as anyone else. They are your heritage and birth right. Finally, beloved, consider timeless words of the great Maya Angelou and find your place in OUR STORY, now: "...and still I rise... I rise, I rise, ***I*** rise!" ■

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA

Celebrating

The Black Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Gay Community

come join the team in building bridges building community

contact us: 404-872-6410

visit our web site: http://www.inthelifeatl.com

NBLGLF

NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP FORUM

ABOUT THE FORUM

What is the Forum?

The Forum is the only national organization dedicated to empowering the nation's 2.5 million Black lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people. We have thousands of members, who come from all 50 states and several foreign countries, from urban, suburban, and rural communities, and from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

What does the Forum do?

The Forum empowers Black lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people by:

Advocating our interests on a local, state, and national level
Educating the public about our lives and contributions
Increasing visibility with the media
Developing strong leaders for the future
Building bridges between our community and others

National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum
1612 K Street, NW -- Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

Tel: 202-483-6786
Fax: 202-483-4790
nblglf@nblglf.org

2ND BIZ

The BUSINESS CORNER

darrol c. de andre

CONCIERGE FOR COUPLES?

As the adage goes: if you build it they will come. Another continuing maxim resounds: if you build a better mousetrap the world will beat a path to your door. These tenors consistently served as the sustenance of entrepreneurial drives and successes predating the industrial revolution. A belief in self and in what you offer, coupled with what my former partner termed "a larcenous ambition to exploit the marketplace" (but, he meant it in a good way), provides the necessary force to encourage business men and women to brave all odds to achieve greatness on their terms, and their own rules of business savvy. In this and the coming months, **The Business Corner** will spotlight those entrepreneurs, professionals and service providers in our community vying for our disposable incomes. We hope and expect that you will be enlightened, enriched, and encouraged by their ambitions, philosophies, successes and services to the community.

Vera Dudley, President of Rendezvous For Two, Inc. (RFT) of Marietta, Georgia, is one such entrepreneur. It seems that everyone is searching for the answer to the age-old question of how to keep the home fire burning in relationships. RFT, an event planning service for couples, offers an answer by providing a personalized, all-inclusive romantic interlude with one's significant other without the planning hassles! Vera surmises that today men and women are stretched very thin with juggling the demands of job, family, friends and civic responsibilities, and therefore find it difficult – and some even say impossible – to spend quality time with their significant other. RFT steps up to the plate for these 'too busy to play' couples by either creating or helping them create the perfect surprise rendezvous to capture the quality time and privacy they desire and need to rejuvenate and keep the magic in their relationship. "People tend to pull out all the stops on Valentine's Day or other special occasions and events," states Vera. "Unfortunately, they've forgotten that romance is just like a baby – it needs to feel love and be nurtured everyday! Every day of the year can be as romantic and fulfilling as Valentine's Day, if not more so, if couples take a moment each day to celebrate their love and nurture their romantic needs."

John Gray, noted author of the infamous relationship book Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus, suggests that the problem in today's relationships is that people expect romance to happen all by itself, and when it begins to wear off they assume that something is wrong. Instead of drawing this conclusion, people should find ways to resurrect the romance they once enjoyed by remembering what they did and how they behaved in the beginning of the relationship. A perfect way to rekindle the passion is an impulsive getaway such as those created and planned by RFT. RFT works with gay-friendly 'bed & breakfasts', major hotels and a cabin resort in the Atlanta area. The company services those living in or visiting the Atlanta area. "We are a **'Concierge for Couples'.** We not only have conceptualized romance packages that include more that the run of the mill champagne and roses, but we get to the destination prior to their arrival and adorn the room with whatever they desire. We'll even pay attention to the small details such as dimming the lights, drawing the drapes, turning down the bed, fragrancing the room and sprinkling rose petal trails, just to name a few. The possibilities are endless: a cabin retreat that includes a candlelit dinner for two; a passion-filled picnic lunch; a secret garden filled with wild flowers; and to top it off, a horse drawn carriage ride after dark? It tells and shows them how much you love and care for them."

At first blush, one might think these services are only for the "bourgie" or the elite, (well, it was my first notion); however, Vera admonishes, "Do not underestimate my market. I've had clerks buy full packages and heads of companies go the cheap route. The point is **everyone** wants the red carpet laid out for them at one point or another. Rendezvous helps one person show another how much they are cherished -- and we do it in style." She continues, "Love is a two-way street that requires commitment from each partner. Each person must be willing to give more than 50% so that neither has to question who gave the most. The home fire will continue burning endlessly as long as they each add a piece of kindling from time to time to keep the sparks flying!"

Well, all I can say is, "You Go Girl!" For those of you pondering what to give the love of your life for their next birthday, or anniversary, or this Valentine's Day you may want to give Rendezvous For Two some serious consideration. For me a romantic rendezvous, not my stomach as mother suggested, is the quickest way to this man's heart. Vera also suggests that if you are interested in self-pampering, introspection and the liberation that time alone can often provide, any package can be designed exclusively for one person. ■

Rendezvous for Two, Inc.

Romantic Ambiance Creations For You and Yours

Imagine . . .

- an elegant suite,
- a candlelit whirlpool tub
- champagne chilling,
- decadent treats,
- complete privacy with your favorite person.

WE:

- Reserve just the right hideaway for you.
- Order special services
- Deliver and set up all you'll need to give new meaning to "Quality time."

YOU:
ARRIVE
Everthing will be ready!

All reservations are in the Atlanta area.

770♥933♥8951

www.rendezvous42.com e-mail:vld@rendezvous42.com

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I have been seeing a married man for the past six months. He does a very good job of fulfilling my emotional and physical needs. Overall, our arrangement provides me with the emotional and physical attention I need without having to deal with the additional pressures of a relationship.

There was one time when I considered ending our arrangement because he was married. However, I realized that he has needs that are not being met by his marriage, and if those needs are not being met with me they will be met elsewhere and I might as well be the one to benefit from him fulfilling those needs.

I am a firm believer that what goes around come around. My intentions for this arrangement are not bad. I am concerned that if I were to be in a "true" relationship one day this may come back to me in the form of my lover cheating on me. I do not feel my intentions are bad since my goal is to maintain a healthy, stable, environment for him to express and fulfill his feelings toward men. Do you feel the fact that I am having an affair with a married man will come back to haunt me one day although my intentions are good?

--The Mister

Hi Mister:

First, I noted that at no point during your comments did you address the one person in this situation who apparently knows nothing about this affair: your lover's wife. For a moment place yourself in her position. How much sympathy and understanding would you have for her "good intentions" if she were the other person in your mate's life? How much comfort would it give you to know that your husband not only cheated on you, but with someone of the opposite sex? When you reflect on all this, consider how far your intentions really go to justifying your behavior.

Second, the old biblical adage that "you reap what you sow" is a truism that proves itself over and over again. How can you expect to ultimately find a healthy relationship until and unless you act as if you deserve one? While you are spending your precious time on a man that cares more for himself than you, the person with whom you might experience a healthy love can not reach you. You also say that your goal is to maintain a "...healthy, stable, environment..." But a healthy and stable environment can not coexist in an atmosphere of dishonesty, secrecy and infidelity. ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER & CLUB FUSION
: PRESENTS :
Hot Male Dance Party
PHAT FUSION FRIDAYS
Jan. 8
Featuring Guest DJ -- House
Resident DJ Smash /Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
Jan. 15
M.L.K. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. Theme: BLACK POWER
Featuring DJ Kurt/DC -- House
Resident DJ Smash / Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
Jan. 22
Featuring Guest DJ -- House
Resident DJ Smash /Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
Jan. 29
FUSION's 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY Party
Featuring: DJ Kurt/DJ Sedric/DC -- House
Resident DJ Smash -- Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
website: www.brotha.com/fusion
FRIDAYS Doors Open at 10:30 PM
Free B4 11:00 PM, $8.00 Admission after
(Except holidays and special events)
The Music Box Dance Party
HOT FUDGE SUNDAES
Jan.
Variety Show with
Exotic Female Impersonators
Every Other Sunday
Showtime at 1:00 AM
Jan. 17
M.L.K. CELEBRATION. Theme: WE SHALL OVERCOME
Featuring DJ Sedric/DC -- House
Resident DJ Smash / Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B
SUNDAYS: Doors Open at 12:00 Midnight
FREE - FREE - FREE
(Except holidays and special events)
B.G.M.T
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Events Promoted by
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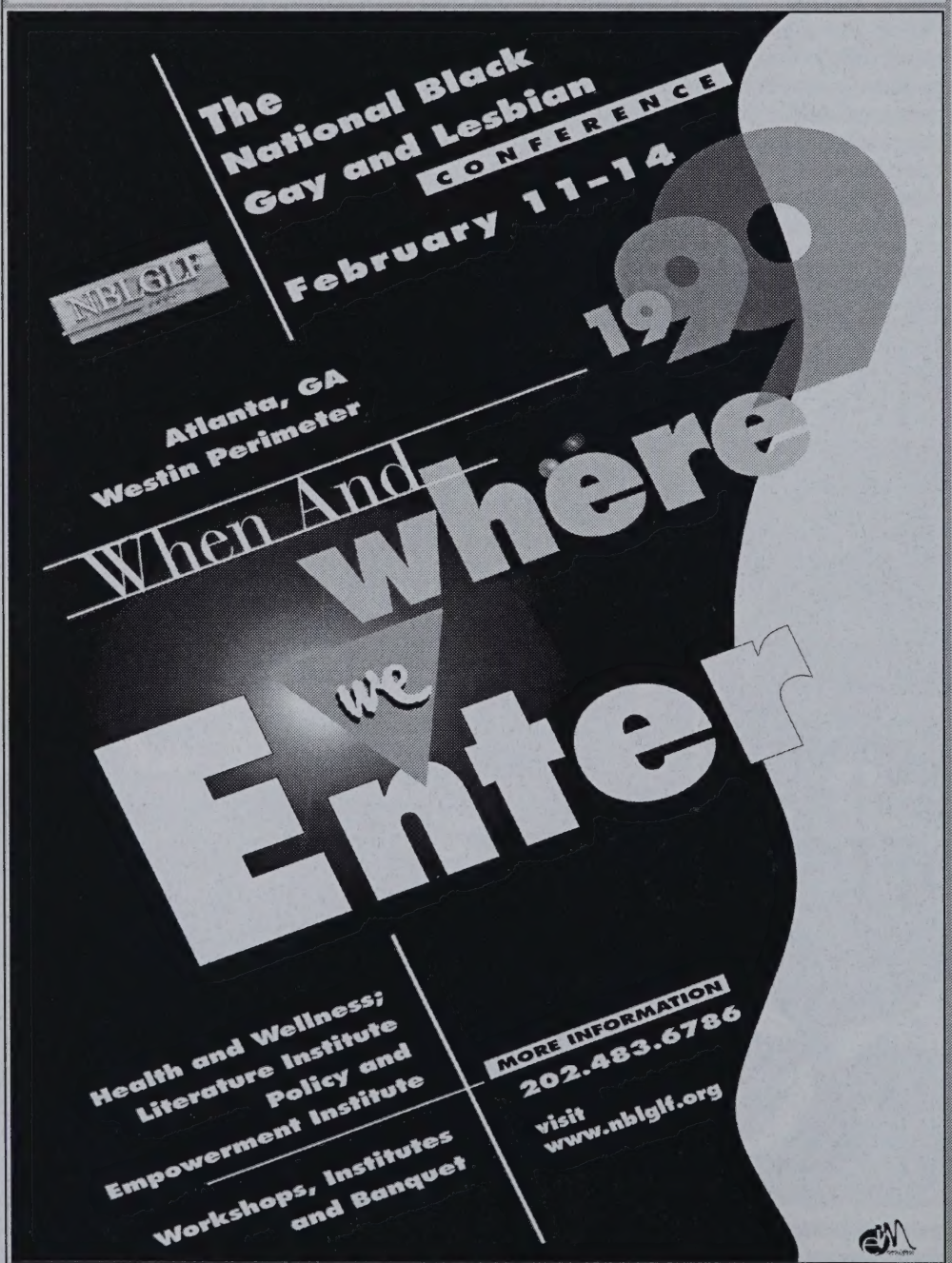
CLUB FUSION - 550-C Amsterdam Avenue (off Monroe) - Midtown Outlets, Atlanta - 404.872.6411 / 770.745.0243

The 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference and Institutes

1999: When and Where We Enter

FEBRUARY 11-14, 1999 • ATLANTA, GA.

In designing the **12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference** (NBLGLC) theme, **1999: When and Where We Enter**, we want to focus our attention on the manner in which we will enter a new millennium, full of, and ready to embrace, power and its inherent responsibilities. During 1998, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum has hosted community forums in cities across the country in an effort to assess the status of our community. The 12th annual NBLGLC, therefore, provides an obvious opportunity to expand upon questions raised during these community meetings... and then do something... to move... to act... to try. Surely, this is a good time to sit down, act upon, and address the serious business of the acquisition of power.



The 1999 NBLGLC consists of four complete days of skills training, networking, capacity building and educational opportunities. Features include the new Literature Institute and the Health and Wellness Institute on Thursday. The power-centered Policy and Empowerment Institute on Friday and the Conference Workshop Session on Saturday and Sunday finish the schedule.

Like each of the past eleven conferences, the 1999 NBLGLC provides an opportunity for lesbians and gay men of African descent from across the U.S. and from around the world to meet each other. We want you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to assist in the development of the Black LGBT agenda and to allow participants to gain personal, professional, and technical skills.

Make your plans to attend the 1999 NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE today! For more information about what's in store, for workshop proposal, hotel and other information please contact the 1999 Conference Coordinator via phone, at **202.483.6786**, via e-mail at **ForumConf@aol.com**, or via the web at **www.nblglf.org**

In Motion,

Debra Rose and Stephan Oxendine
Chairs,
National Conference Committee

Kenyatta Dorey Graves
Conference Coordinator

Gail Booker and Eric J. Flavors
Chairs - Atlanta Host Committee

Willa J. Taylor
Chairperson - Board of Directors

Thursday, **February 11, 1999** through
Sunday, **February 14, 1999**

Westin Atlanta North
at Perimeter Mall
Atlanta, Georgia

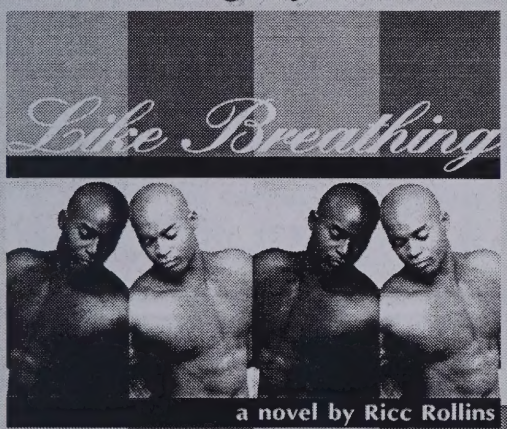
2ND SUNDAY

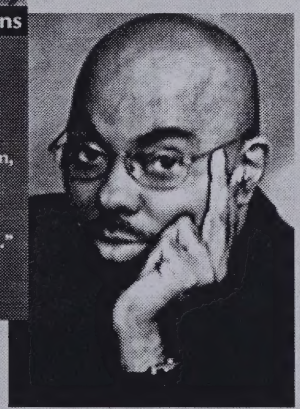
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

January Book Pic:
"Like Breathing", by Ricc Rollins


Like Breathing
a novel by Ricc Rollins
"With characters so true to life that you've likely met them, and situations so real that you've experienced them (or know someone who has) *Like Breathing* will touch you in a way that only something as intimate and personal as breathing can."
– Trevy A. McDonald, author of *Time Will Tell*



Visit the website:
www.likebreathing.com

Premiering January 21, 1999

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY and author Ricc Rollins for the first Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB, to discuss his new book "Like Breathing."

"Like Breathing is a breath of fresh air... The characters are fresh, witty and real... Move over E. Lynn Harris, Ricc Rollins has arrived... I loved it tender!!!"

--Tony Turner, bestselling author of All That Glittered: My Life With The Supremes, and Deliver Us From Temptation: The True & Shocking Story Of The Temptations And Motown

Ricc Rollins is an award-winning talk show host, ordained minister and proud father of two, turned author. He matriculated at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, majoring in business. He has appeared on nationally syndicated talk shows, Geraldo, Donahue and The Jane Whitney Show discussing issues of male sexual abuse and survivorship.

This Month's Book Pic Available at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

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THE SOUTH'S SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR LIVES

January COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Friday, 1/08/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSIONS. The Men of SECOND SUNDAY and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) host a night of Partying! and Fun! at CLUB FUSION located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Sunday, 1/10/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "CIVIL RIGHTS AND US ... AS BLACK GAY MEN." SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held each second Sunday at City Hall East - Phoenix Room, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 1/17/99

5:00 p.m. Honoring Bayard Rustin: AN EVENING OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION. Reception and Workshop to be held at Emory University. Call Eric Flavors at (770) 473-7393 for more information.

Sunday, 1/17/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 1/24/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; open to same-gender-loving Men of African Descent over the age of 35. This monthly forum addresses the issues important to men approaching forty years of age and older. Meetings are held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 1/31/99

6:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Meeting, to be held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

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every 2ND FRIDAY
JOIN US JANUARY 8, 1999
at CLUB FUSION
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2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

February 1999
Vol. 3
No. 2

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2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard s. moultrie, jr. ***BELOVED:*** OUR MISSED OPPORTUNITY, PERHAPS?

Even the eloquence of Toni Morrison's prose could not provide the necessary impetus for the success of so significant a cinematic triumph as ***Beloved***. Even Oprah Winfrey with her millions of dollars and television viewers, and the directorial debut of Maya Angelou (***Down in the Delta***), could not convince a large number of Black moviegoers to view their history depicted on the silver screen. If you saw ***Beloved*** and later tried desperately to encourage others to do the same -- as I did -- you might also have heard the kind of comments which peppered me.

Some declared that they preferred to be "entertained" rather than endure a "depressing" movie about a Black ex-slave who kills her baby. Others remarked that they refused to see another "slave movie." If you too are not persuaded of the need for Black folk to support films that catalogue our history, I suggest that you revisit the matter.

Why, you may ask, are films like ***Beloved*** so vital to the welfare and progress of Black folk? If we witnessed more of the historical dehumanization of Black-on-Black love, perhaps more Black men would not dishonor themselves or their mates by coveting some other brother's lover; more brothers might not defile their bodies by risking sexual encounters with strangers; and more brothers might never seek to exalt themselves by simultaneously publishing their sexual exploits (via telephones, living, locker or chat rooms) and their lovers' misplaced confidences. Perhaps fewer among us would require a therapist's services to overcome emotional pain if we saw more accounts of the manner in which enslaved Africans maintained their sanity despite the lack of freedom to make the most basic of choices.

If you are still unmoved, consider these other possibilities. Perhaps we would refuse to disseminate gossip if we were reminded that a careless remark leveled at one slave by another, in the presence of whites, could result in certain death for either or both of the slaves involved. Perhaps we would not again witness the horror of young Black mothers cursing their small children in public if more sisters remembered how southern slaveholders bred, and then later auctioned, Black babies like cattle.

Finally, if we supported more films which demonstrated how entire Black communities had to rely on the care of and assistance from each of its members, we might spend less time at shopping malls and more time volunteering at shelters or nursing homes. As films like ***Beloved*** and ***Down in the Delta*** document, ours is a heritage marked by survival, creativity and resourcefulness. To incorporate the strength of this legacy into our daily lives, we must first remove our shame around the experiences which comprise it. ■

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Assoc. Director, Public Relations

Robert Mathis
Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Craig Washington
Vice-Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Contributing Writers

Drevan Jointer
Menelik Tefera
Kenneth A. Johnson
Darryl!
Sebastion

Graphics/Layout

Darrol C. De Andre

2ND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 FEBRUARY 1999

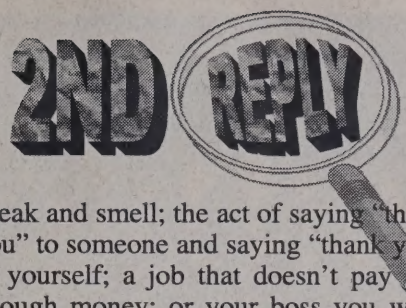
12 **B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY**
2ND FRIDAY N.B.L.G.L.C. AFTER-PARTY
Friday, FEBRUARY 12, 1999 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

13 **The PALACE & 2ND SUNDAY**
2ND SATURDAY WEEKEND GROOVE
Saturday, FEBRUARY 13, 1999 • 7:00 PM
The PALACE, 91 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA

14 **2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting**
"THE DATING GAME"
Sunday, FEBRUARY 14, 1999 • 6:30 PM
LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

23 **SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB**
"GIOVANNI'S ROOM" by James Baldwin
Tuesday, FEBRUARY 23, 1999 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

a LETTER to the editor



drevan jointer CELEBRATING THE "LITTLE THINGS"

I watched Iyanla Vanzant on ***BET Tonight*** recently and listened as she talked about celebration. She wasn't speaking in terms of anniversaries or birthdays. She spoke about celebrating what many of us call the "little things." For instance, while one might fail an exam he should still rejoice in the fact that he is enrolled in school. The more I listened to Iyanla, the more I realized that I was on the right track in terms of appreciating the little things.

But first I had to overcome an intense anger with God which I developed as a teenager. This anger surfaced one day while I was daydreaming on a train in Chicago. I noticed a woman struggling to get up from her seat after she heard the PA system announce her stop. This woman was blind, and she did not have a sight dog to assist her, only a cane. After she finally managed to get up and stand near the door, using her sight cane to feel her way and distinguish the distance, I looked into her face and noticed that both of her eyes appeared closed. Tightly closed. All I could do was stare; and the compassion I felt for this woman geared me into a very sorrowful space. I really felt sorry for this woman due to her disability. Anyway, the train eventually stopped and the woman successfully guided herself off the train.

Still my sorrow continued to increase after her departure and I started to cry. I cried until I arrived at my job. During that time, I also prayed and asked God to explain why the woman had to be blind. Why was she deprived of the gift of sight and so many of us are blessed with it? For years I prayed and asked for an understanding and for years God did not give me one. This made me very angry with God. I was angry for a very long time. For years in fact I shared with God how angry I was and why.

Years later, after I was in another space in my life, God provided the answers. Spiritually, God said to me, "That woman has a gift far more wonderful than you will ever imagine." In addition God said, "Be grateful that you are so blessed and have the gift of sight." This totally blew me away, put an end to my anger and placed me on my current journey toward appreciating the little things.

I overheard one of our local ministers on television speak about how God will not bless you with the "big" things if you have not cherished and appreciated the little things. I must tell you that he was absolutely correct. Not only should we cherish the little things in life, but we should celebrate and praise them as well.

Many of you are probably wondering, "What are these little things?" I am referring to the ability to see, hear, speak and smell; the act of saying "thank you" to someone and saying "thank you" to yourself; a job that doesn't pay you enough money; or your boss you work for that may be a jerk; your old furniture in your home, your old home, your apartment, your old shoes; or the friend with whom you always fight but who remains a friend on whom you can depend nevertheless. In other words, instead of sitting around wishing for a new Lexus, for example, appreciate and celebrate the old Ford you have currently.

We should also remember to celebrate who we are as a people. It does not matter if you are overweight, short, bald, come from a broken home, have been to prison, are in recovery, have AIDS or are HIV positive. Again, what may seem to be an unfortunate circumstance for you may serve a purpose for many others. Be mindful and understand that you are you and that there is no one like you anywhere else. Your life represents a unique revelation that must be celebrated, nurtured, cherished and praised.

In conclusion, "Each day, today, everyday is a gift from God. That is why it is called the PRESENT." All and only in the spirit of God. ■

To the Editor & Publishers:

Reading the newsletters, 2ND READ... I am proud of my brothers and also the place that I still call home. I have many fond memories of the early days when the energy of the idea was so overwhelming. There were great thinkers and visionaries in my home, when the seed for "SECOND SUNDAY" was planted. Clearly a second wave of brothers with First rate hearts, and a clear direction have continued a path towards the liberation of our Same-Gender-Loving Brothers of Color. Much success along your journey, the community needs you to succeed.

As a community elder and founder of SECOND SUNDAY, please feel free to call on me for assistance or support.

--Maurice Franklin /Ardmore, OK

I would like to express my great appreciation for the SECOND SUNDAY organization. I recently became a member of SECOND SUNDAY several months ago at the request of two good friends. At your meeting in the beginning of November I was privileged to be able to see your organization in operation. I recently had an opportunity to also read your 2ND READ newsletter. Though I currently live in New York my job allows for travel to Atlanta and I look forward to being able to attend meetings in the future. I applaud the efforts of the visionaries at SECOND SUNDAY, and I look forward to my continued membership with the organization.

-- Alphonso W. Abner /NewYork, NY

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 78705, Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705**

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399

TOPIC of the MONTH

menelik tefera THE DATING GAME

"The Dating Game" is the chosen topic for the month of February, as Valentine's Day happens to fall on the second Sunday. Damon Murphy and I will serve as facilitators of The Dating Game to be held at the Lambda Center. We will discuss dating in the new millenium: where to go on a first date and the question of whether to go out on a second one; how to deal with red flags; when to transition from dating to committing; and the appropriate stage at which to have sex. It is our sincere hope that our discussion will foster and stimulate healthy dialogue in dating among men of color.

The "Post Office Box" is one of the entertainments we plan. We will give numbers to attendees as they arrive. Also, we will ask participants to choose a color (keyed to a coding chart posted at the entrance) that represents the type (kind) of person they desire to meet. Forms will be available at the "Post Office" and by the entrance so that one can notate his name, phone number and any other personal information. There will be a group of people manning the Post Office. They will take your mail and place it in the appropriate box. People can stop by the Post Office as many times as they like to check if any mail has arrived. If a person receives mail he may locate the sender by the number assigned to and worn by that individual. We hope that this exercise will give us an opportunity to make new friends and possibly meet that special someone.

We will conclude our discussion with a reception. The color theme will be red and white as it is Valentine's Day, so we encourage you to dress in those colors. As we learned from Greek Mythology, Cupid is a cherub (or winged figure) who carries a bow and gold tipped arrows. He is sometimes referred to as the son of Aphrodite, and is said to be mischievous and able to inspire love with a shot of one of his arrows. Watch out... an arrow might be pointing in your direction! ■

SECOND SUNDAY NEWS

kenneth a. johnson OFFICERS' ELECTIONS

Although we recently filled all our officer positions, it is time once again for the annual election of SECOND SUNDAY officers. Our Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected at the March general membership meeting to serve for a 1-year term. As paid members of SECOND SUNDAY we each may serve in one of two roles in the process. We each are eligible to throw our hats into the ring and run for office. If that does not suit you, then remember that we each are entitled to cast a vote for our leadership. Whichever role you choose, both are integral to the elections process.

The nomination period begins now! Anyone interested in running for office (incumbents included) should submit that intent in writing to the Nominations and Elections (N & E) Committee. Written statements of candidacy should include a brief personal introduction, qualifications or skills relevant to the position, your background with SECOND SUNDAY and/or other community organizations, and a statement of personal vision for the position and organization. The last date to submit your nomination is February 28, 1999. The N & E Committee representatives will interview all candidates before the March election.

I, Kenneth A. Johnson, will head up the N&E Committee's efforts with the support of our former Co-Chair, Ulester Douglas. Please contact me at (404) 355-5739 or via e-mail at **Elections@SecondSunday.org** with any questions or to make arrangements to deliver your intent to run for office. Time is a precious commodity but so are our talents. Investing both in SECOND SUNDAY will yield generous returns. ■

robert mathis REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR

The Board of Directors wishes to remind you that the January 31, 1999 Membership meeting is rescheduled for Sunday, February 7, 1999. Remember that members will be voting on the **Proposed Bylaws of 2nd Sunday** at this meeting which will be held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street at 6:30 p.m. Only paid members who are current in their dues will be allowed to attend this Membership meeting, so it is important that you renew your membership as soon as possible.

Also, SECOND SUNDAY is no longer able to utilize the space at City Hall East. The reasons for this will be discussed at the Membership meeting on the 7th. Our **2nd Sunday** meeting on the 14th will also be held at the Lambda Center at our usual time of 6:30 p.m. The Board is hoping to obtain another space in the near future similar to the one utilized at City Hall East. We are asking members who have any information about available spaces to pass this on to Craig Washington or me. You may reach Craig at (404) 872-0600 ext. 271 and me at (770) 496-4338. SECOND SUNDAY's Board of Directors is quite concerned about securing space as quickly as possible and is asking that you be patient during this transition.

We encourage you to make plans to attend the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference to be held February 11 through 14 here in Atlanta. Your membership in SECOND SUNDAY will allow you to take advantage of special rates offered to our members.

Many exciting and important things have happened since we last met. As always, I enjoy hearing your feedback and encourage you to share your concerns, praises, and recommendations. Remember that only paid members who are current with their dues will be allowed to attend the Membership meeting on February 7, 1999. You will have an opportunity to renew your membership on the day of the meeting. ■

2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

the DATING GAME

Where do I go on a first date?

Should I ask him out again?

How do I know I am seriously ready to commit?

Should I be considering sex at this stage?

Share and experience helpful hints on dating and maintaining.

Watch out ... Cupid's arrow might be pointing in your direction!

"Post Office Box"

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lambda Center

828 West Peachtree Street • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

40-PLUS

JOIN US FOR OUR FEBRUARY DISCUSSION MEETING

"STILL TOGETHER AFTER ALL THESE YEARS"

Sunday, February 28, 1999

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Atlanta Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street

This month's forum examines the issues of maintaining a relationship. The panel discussion will explore relationship challenges and successes with couples who have been together for one year, two years, five years and over fifteen years.

This Special Meeting is open to ALL Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent who attend SECOND SUNDAY.

Come Join the Discussion!

2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(404) 325-7321

2ND SUNDAY

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sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

PRESENTING

my BROTHAZ keeper

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

- Your confidentiality will be respected
- Every 3rd Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams,
Co-Coordinator

Kevin Bynes,
Co-Coordinator

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

darryl! IF YOU DON'T KNOW *YOUR* HISTORY... IT MIGHT JUST REPEAT ON YOU!

We often hear the time old adage that history repeats itself. This is why we attempt to remember the past and educate each other, and particularly our youth, on the effects of the past on the present day. The intent of this is to ensure that the past will not come back and repeat the same atrocities on a person, group, or society. This is good advise but we must carry it further than simple education. We must not only have an awareness of the past but a plan to watch for the "wrongs" and make them "right." We must also ensure that the "good" of the past does not become "bad." Meaning we must hold to the greatness of the community and not let that be contaminated and converted into a new age of waste or wantonness.

The period of time known as the Harlem Renaissance was one of the greatest times in modernity. This is true for all the world but even more so for people of African descent. It was a time of great artistic exploration, scientific development, community growth and solidarity, and a time of experienced freedom of expression, tolerance, and acceptance. During this era the community avoided infighting and internalized bigotry based on sexuality and professional and socio-political status. The community found ways to support itself without divisions. While racial problems, economic problems, and other social ills did exist, the community found ways to make things work. This ability to adapt to change is a part of our tradition. For instance, in post-slavery America our ancestors took the scrapes of food (pig feet, tails, snouts, maws and chitterlings or the "pot liquor" from the cooked greens and vegetables) left for them to eat and made them delicacies.

You see, history can be our barometer. It can push us towards a greater destiny or can be used as a weapon to hold back progress. Beloved, we have at this time in OURstory the opportunity to recreate the prosperity and greatness exemplified during the Renaissance or we can succumb to the negative imagery present about us. Remember the renaissance did not only occur in Harlem, it occurred in Detroit, Chicago, and other bastions of African life in America. But more importantly the renaissance took place in the hearts and minds of the people.

Let us look to our history and recapture the fervor, excitement, and power of community togetherness. We can take the scrapes and recreate the greatest treasures on earth. We were the architects and builders of the pyramids and the Sphinx, we were the originators of languages, mathematics, and the sciences. We were the first to chart the stars and record history. We have made music, sculpted, danced, and designed the greatest of these known to humankind. We have created societies and governments, and conquered and destroyed some as well. We have survived the greatest tortures and produced the greatest pleasures. We have had a role in every major or minor development in the universe. Let the renaissance begin again in us now. Let us take history and make it work for us. If we are not careful history will not only repeat itself but it will repeat ON us. Let the renaissance begin.

The renaissance begins when we join in developing and promoting Black PRIDE and community solidarity. It begins when we acknowledge ourselves as powerful and important players on the world stage. It begins when we involve ourselves in the struggles and challenges of our community through social, political, and personal activism. It begins when we join ***In The Life Atlanta, Inc.***, and participate in the development of events and activities that promote community spirit, pride and health and wellness for the entire African Les/Bi/Gay/Trans/SGL family.

It begins when we become MEMBERS of ***SECOND SUNDAY***, and begin to make a difference for ourselves and all of our brothers in the life. It begins when we attend Brothers in the Life and begin the personal healing necessary for personal achievement. It begins when we attend Friends For Life and develop the strength to tap into our own Personal Power and move to healthier places in our lives.

Moreover, it begins when we support our women through collaborations with Folami or Zami. It begins when we support Color Bi-Numbers, My Brothaz Keeper, Forty-Plus, Unity Fellowship Church, Circle of Love Fellowship, our clubs and other social, political, and community groups and organizations. It begins when we begin to heal the past hurts that keep us separated. It begins when we fight the urge to judge or condemn, ostracize or ridicule, or ignore or avoid confrontations and opportunities to grow individually and collectively. The renaissance begins each day, with each person, with each thought or action that moves us together applying daily the seven (7) principles of Kwanzaa: Unity; Self-Determination; Collective Work and Responsibility; Cooperative Economics; Purpose; Creativity; and Faith. Let the ***Renaissance*** begin!!!! ■

Darryl! is Executive Director of In The Life Atlanta, Inc. and an active member of SECOND SUNDAY.

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
ITLA
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Celebrating
The Black Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Gay Community
come join the team in
building bridges building community
contact us: 404-872-6410
visit our web site: http://www.inthelifeatl.com

BWMT/Atlanta Invites you to meet the Men of 1999 Champions Calendar. Saturday, February 6, 1999, 7:30 PM

Potluck and Housewarming Party at Nat & Gene's new home, 653 Stratford Green, Avondale Estates, GA 30002, (404) 292-4221. Male models from the CHAMPIONS 1999 Calendar will attend and sign calendars for sale.

The 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference and Institutes

1999: When and Where We Enter

FEBRUARY 11-14, 1999 • ATLANTA, GA.

N.B.L.G.L.F. Comes To Atlanta

Local organizers aggressively prepare for Atlanta to welcome the 12th Annual Black Lesbian And Gay Leadership Forum Conference and Institutes that will run from February 11th through February 14th. This year will have been the second time Atlanta hosted the conference, a city known as a center for conventions. Black gays and lesbians from all over the country will arrive the week of Valentine's Day weekend for a series of workshops, guest speakers, panel discussions and entertainment. The topics to be discussed cover different facets such as skills building, personal finances, and empowering youth. "You always leave the conference with a feeling of empowerment, with an assurance that you are not alone in your personal struggle or within your community work", says Eric Flavors, Co-Chair of the Local Host Committee. Eric has attended nine of the eleven previous conferences.

The NBLGLF is the only motivational vehicle dedicated to empowering the nation's million Black lesbians, gays and transgendered. The forum, founded in 1988, has thousands of members nationally. Each year a different city hosts the conference. Atlanta hosted the conference last in 1989. Last year it was held in Washington, D.C.

The Policy and empowerment Institute is designed to build organizational capacity and promote community growth. The Literature Institute gathers writers, literary scholars and readers for an exploration of the Black lesbian and gay tradition. The Health and Wellness Institute concentrates on promoting sound health practices and updates on research and treatment. The final days of the conference consist of workshops providing education, skills building and personal development.

While promoting the conference the local host committee points out to everyone in the Black gay and lesbian community that the event is not meant for activist and community builders only, but it is for everybody. There is something for everyone that is worth the investment.

Kenyatta Dorey Graves, Conference Coordinator, examines this point. "The whole conference experience is important. The interactions that occur off the schedule are a significant part of the process. An attendee should expect that, while finding a community of Black family that is serious about community work and moving forward, they'll learn personal organizational development as a Black gay man or woman."

Legions of brothers and sisters from around the nation and overseas will come to Atlanta for the Black Gay Pride Celebration to party. However the Conference 1999 is another cause. The committee amplifies a call to all the locals to come out and represent. As for the city, nationally recognized as a Black gay Mecca, this is a chance for gay citizens to present themselves as a strong Black force. Kenyatta reasons, "An event like this, that is located right in your backyard without having to pay for hotel accommodations and travel arrangements, would be a shame to miss."

Sebastion
Local Press Chair

The PALACE
ATLANTA'S PREMIER NIGHTSPOT
7 DAYS OF EXCITEMENT
BEGINS AT 5PM
WHO NEEDS TO REST?
HAPPY HOUR EVERY WEEKDAY
6PM - 7PM
MON. Martini Monday.
TUE. Customer Appreciation Tuesday. Free For All
WED. Hip-Hop Wednesday. Drink Specials. L.I. Ice Tea - Sex On the Beach
THU. Classic House Thursday. Non-Stop Dance Party
FRI. Flava Friday. Hip-Hop and R&B, UP House, Main Floor
SAT. Saturday Dance Party. Hip-Hop and R&B, UP House, Main Floor
SUN. HardBody-to-Body Sunday. Hip-Hop and R&B, UP House, Main Floor
The PALACE
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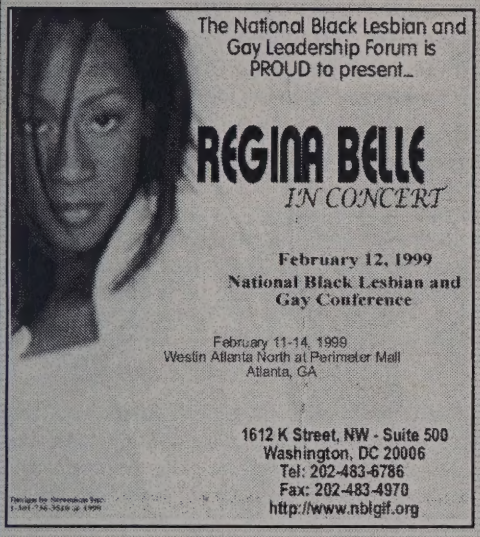
404-522-3000
3 Floors of Full Pleasure * Featuring Atlanta's Finest *

The 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference and Institutes

REGINA BELLE To Perform During 12th Annual National Black Lesbian And Gay Leadership Conference



(Washington, D.C.)-- Grammy-Award winning vocalist Regina Belle will headline entertainment for the 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference and Institutes (NBLGLC) set to convene in Atlanta, Georgia from February 11 through February 14.

MCA Records artist Regina Belle will perform on Friday, February 12, 1999, just after the Main Conference Opening Ceremonies. "When Regina Belle takes the mic, everything seems all right in the world. I know the 'diva' label gets overused, but with Regina it's earned... in every positive sense of the word. Her live show is all passion and vocal excellence," saids Kenyatta Dorey Graves, Conference Coordinator for the NBLGLC. "Just go ahead and cuddle up to the person next to you because she will do the rest. This year, we've taken conference entertainment to another level."

Belle made her album debut with All By Myself, followed by hit albums Stay with Me, Passion, and Reaching Back. Her many hit singles include the smoky "Baby, Come to Me," "Show Me The Way," "So Many Tears," "Make It Like It Was," "This Is Love," and the #1 smash "A Whole New World (Aladdin Theme)," a duet with Peabo Bryson . Her newest album, Believe In Me, was nominated for a Grammy in the category Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance.

VIP concert tickets for reserved seating at the very front of the house and admission to a VIP reception with Ms. Belle will sell for $100. General Admission tickets are included with full conference registration or may be purchased separately for $35. Concert tickets will go on sale on January 22, 1999, and may be purchased with MasterCard or VISA by calling (202) 483-6786.

Comic KAREN WILLIAMS To Host National Black Lesbian And Gay Awards Banquet

(Washington, D.C.)-- Comic Karen Williams returns to host the annual Awards Banquet during the 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference and Institutes set to convene in Atlanta, Georgia from February 11 through February 14.

For the second year, Humorist and Founder of the International Institute of Humor and Healing Arts (HaHA), Karen Williams will emcee and perform during the annual Awards Banquet. "We are really very excited to have Karen host our banquet again," said Willa Taylor, Chair of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum Board of Directors. "If Karen had starred in a TV show, it would still be on!"

During the banquet the Leadership Forum will present the following annual awards: Frederick Garnett Award (AIDS Service), Mabel Hampton Award (Lesbian Service), Audre Lorde Award (Arts and Literature), James Baldwin Award (Arts and Literature), Harriet Tubman Award (Organizational Excellence), Bayard Rustin Award (Activism), Bishop Carl Bean Award (Spirituality), and the Joan Fountain Award (Youth Achievement).

The annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 13, 1999 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are included with full conference registration or may be purchased separately for $75. For further information, please contact Conference Coordinator Kenyatta Dorey Graves at **202-483-6786**, by email at **ForumConf@aol.com**

FEEL THE VIBE AS SECOND SUNDAY WELCOMES N.B.L.G.L.C & THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ATLANTA WITH B.G.M.T. & FUSION AND THE PALACE

The PALACE
2ND SUNDAY
Feb. 13 - 2ND SATURDAY
Join The PALACE and the MEN of SECOND SUNDAY...
N.B.L.G.L.C. & PRE-VALENTINE'S
WEEKEND GROOVE!
THE PALACE • 91 BROAD STREET • ATLANTA

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

There is a very nice man in my life that I have known for over three years who I will call "David". I have grown to like him very much during this period. The reason we are not in a relationship is because he does not live here. But, four months ago I met another gentleman I will call "Jay". I also want to continue dating him and building a friendship.

Recently, David mentioned that he will be moving here in a few months and is interested in dating me on a regular basis. During the conversation, he told me about his relationship with an ex-lover. David said their relationship was complicated by the actions of his ex-lover's former lover.

For some reason I suspect that Jay is the former lover of David's ex-lover. I confirmed this later. I am now concerned whether Jay is right for me. Although he has not done anything to offend me, I question his character due to his conduct while dating David's former lover. I am not prepared to discard David or Jay. Tyrone, I am up in the air about this situation and would like your input.

--Troubled Man

Hi Troubled Man:

My answer to your dilemma begins with a question: how reliable is your information that Jay and David's ex-lover's former lover are the same person? If you relied on speculation or gossip you may not only lose Jay as a friend, but also disrespect him in the process. If you are not reasonably certain about the source of your information, then make your own assessment of Jay's character. You should also tell David about your interaction with Jay. On the other hand, if you are convinced that your report on Jay is accurate, leave him alone. People can change, but do not do so often. If Jay is indeed a "new" man, you should wait and watch for evidence of this from a distance! ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

CONSCIOUS CONNECTIONS

AN OASIS FOR BROTHERS *IN THE LIFE*

Workshop #15:

"The Art Of Living Single & Happy"

FEBRUARY 27, 1999 • 12:30 - 4:00 P.M.

LAMBDA CENTER

828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor

Atlanta, Georgia

[$20 Advance Registration • $25 At The Door]

For more information contact:

Ulester Douglas, LMSW (404) 635-9418

Robert Mathis, LCSW (770) 496-4338

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND SUNDAY

PROUD! GIFTED! BLACK!

FOR SAME-GENGER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY

CALL (404) 325-7321 FOR MORE INFORMATION

BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER & CLUB FUSION

Hot Male Dance Party : CELEBRATES : The Music Box Dance Party

PHAT FUSION FRIDAYS

HOT FUDGE SUNDAES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

website: www.brotha.com/fusion

Feb. 5 Zodiac Night - 1/2 Admission with ID until 1:00A

Feb. 12 Fusion & 2nd Sunday hosts: The Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Conference 'After-Party at Fusion'

Feb. 19 Mardi Gras Night: Best Dressed Costume Contest with Cash Prizes & Float full of Hot Boys & Beads

Feb. 26 College Night: Show Your School ID Reduced Cover until 1:00A

FRIDAYS Doors Open at 10:30 PM

Free B4 11:00 PM, $8.00 Admission after (Except holidays and special events)

Feb. Sundays: A Weekly Showcase Show with the cast of Fusion: Racquel Lorde, Necole Luv Dupree, Niesha Dupree, Stasha Sanchez, Natalia Luv Dupree, R Darius Black, Archie Bonet

Showtimes at 12:30 AM

Feb. 14 Valentine's Night & Presidents' Day Celebration Love is in the air with a special Showcase Show by the Weekly Cast of Fusion

SUNDAYS Doors Open at 11:30 PM

FREE - FREE - FREE (Except holidays and special events)

B.G.M.T. Fusion Atlanta

Events Promoted by Reggie Thomas of BGMT

CLUB FUSION - 550-C Amsterdam Avenue (off Monroe) - Midtown Outlets, Atlanta - 404.872.6411 / 770.745.0243

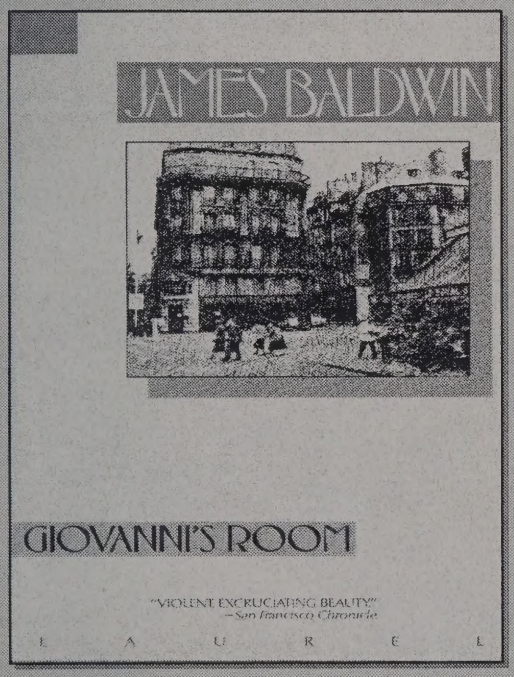
2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

February Book Pic:
"Giovanni's Room", by James Baldwin
– Laurel Books $6.99 –



February 23, 1999
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY for the next Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB to discuss James Baldwin's novel "Giovanni's Room."

"A Young American involved with both a woman and a man….Baldwin writes of these matters with unusual candor and yet with such dignity and intensity."
--The New York Times

Set in the contemporary Paris of American expatriates, liaisons, and violence, a young man finds himself caught between desire and conventional morality. James Baldwin's brilliant narrative delves into the mystery of loving with a sharp, probing imagination, and he creates a moving, highly controversial story of death and passion that reveals the unspoken complexities of the heart.

"Mr. Baldwin has taken a very special theme and treated it with great artistry and restraint," writes the Saturday Review. "Exciting," says The Atlantic; "a book that belongs in the top rank of fiction." Alfred Kazin calls it "passionate and mature," while The Washington Post finds it "absorbing" with "immediate emotional impact."

James Baldwin, one of Americas most celebrated authors, has written fifteen books and co-authored four others. His widely acclaimed works have profoundly altered America's social literary consciousness. Among his awards are the Partisan Review Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

This Month's Book Pic Available at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN
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Supporting You Daily.

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February COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Saturday, 2/06/99

7:30 p.m. BWMT/Atlanta hosts a Potluck and Housewarming Party at Nat & Gene's. Meet the Men of the 1999 Champions Calendar, 653 Stratford Green, Avondale Estates, GA. Call (404) 292-4221 for more info.

Sunday, 2/07/99

6:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Meeting, to be held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

Thursday, 2/12 - Sunday, 2/14/99

National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Conference: "When and Where We Enter." Held at the Westin Atlanta North at Perimeter Mall. Call (202) 483-6786 for info.

Friday, 2/12/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSIONS. The Men of SECOND SUNDAY and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) host the "N.B.L.G.L.C. After-Party" at Club Fusion, located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Saturday, 2/13/99

6:00 p.m. 2ND SATURDAY @ THE PALACE. The Men of SECOND SUNDAY host a night of Partying! and Fun! at THE PALACE located at 91 Broad Street, Atlanta.

Sunday, 2/14/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "THE DATING GAME." SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Sunday, 2/21/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 2/23/99

7:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB Meeting. Discussing James Baldwin's "Giovanni's Room" at OutWrite Bookstore, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for more information.

Sunday, 2/28/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; open to same-gender-loving Men of African Descent. This month's topic: "Still Together After All These Years" Held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for info.

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2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

March 1999
Vol. 3
No. 3

2ND READ

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2ND SAY

a message from our CHAIR

robert mathis THE YEAR IN REVIEW

March is here already. It marks the final month of office for the current officers of SECOND SUNDAY with the election of new officers taking place March 28th. This will be my last time addressing you in this space as Chair. I would like to utilize this time to review how the organization accomplished eight (8) of its ten (10) goals for the period marking April 1998 - March 1999, and to say thanks to a few brothers who have been instrumental in my tenure as Chair.

First, we achieved the following eight (8) goals:

1) **Strategic planning meeting.** This was accomplished in June when SECOND SUNDAY's leadership met to assess the state of the organization and to build consensus around committee roles and responsibilities. This meeting was the precursor to the movement to revise SECOND SUNDAY's organizational structure.

2) **Reintroduction of the newsletter.** This was accomplished in August and continues to be one of SECOND SUNDAY's gems.

3) **Converting to financial software.** This was accomplished in August to accommodate SECOND SUNDAY's financial growth.

4) **Identifying and securing administrative meeting space.** This was completed in August and was necessary to centralize many of our meetings (Topics, Public Relations, Membership, My Brothaz Keeper, Finance, 40-Plus, etc.), and to make them more accessible to brothers in the community.

5) **Restructuring the managing body.** This was accomplished in October and made it possible for SECOND SUNDAY to downsize its managing body and create a Board of Directors with more accountability.

6) **Filling Executive Committee vacancies.** This was completed in November and marked the first time since March 1998 that all of the positions were filled.

7) **Centralizing mail access.** This was completed in December and allows Board members the opportunity to access SECOND SUNDAY's mailbox.

8) **Revising bylaws in preparation for incorporation/501 (C-3) tax status.** This was completed in February when the bylaws were unanimously approved by the membership. My last 2ND SAY article was exclusively devoted to the proposed bylaws and I asked you to come out to vote on them. I appreciated the discussion around this document at the Membership meeting and was encouraged by the vote.

The two (2) unmet goals were around financial matters, specifically policies and procedures to ensure compliance with governmental regulations and initiatives which increase revenue sources. These goals will continue to be priorities of the Board of Directors and will no doubt be major parts of the goals of the incoming Officers.

I want to also thank those who helped to put these initiatives into place. The aforementioned goals started out as ideas and reminds me of the saying: **Ideas are a dime a doze. People who put them into action are priceless.** Yes, there were a number of brothers who were responsible for putting these ideas into action. Much appreciation for your working toward completing all 10 of our goals, particularly the contributions of the brothers encompassing last year's Steering Committee and the current Board of Directors. I thank you for your devotion and hard work. You are priceless!! I appreciate the sacrifices.

Serving as your first Chair has been exciting and challenging. I want to thank the membership for allowing me the privilege of serving you in a very special way. To the Board of Directors, I can only say that your patience and understanding made my job easier. To the other Executive Committee members, it has been a long ride and on some level has touched us in ways to which only our souls can bear witness. Craig, thanks for your love and support. I thank you for not abandoning me. You are special. Tim, the organization continues to see only a small portion of how truly exciting you are. Stay strong, my brother. And, Kirk, thanks for helping me to stay focussed and being aware of the bottom line. Peace, love and goodbye. ■

INSIDE *THIS ISSUE*

2 What We Say And What We Mean
3 Where Is The Love?
4 Our Common Bond: We As One
4 Breaking the Cycle: Alcohol And Drug Abuse / Dependence
6 "Ask Not What Your…"
7 Exploring Our Genealogy
8 "Thank You!"
9 So We're Not Doing A Rally Why?
9 B.W.M.T./Atlanta: Fact Or Fiction

2ND SAY

a message from our VICE-CHAIR

craig washington WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE MEAN

Closetspeak: (kloz'it spek). A language that conveys covert messages often within a casual style. This function enables the speaker to engage in intricate levels of denial about his internal struggles. Closetspeak is a universal language accessible to people from all walks of life!

Advisory: The reader is advised that the translations may not always apply. Admittedly the following list is biased by the writer's worldview!

Closetspeak (Edgar): "What I do in my bedroom is my business." Translation: "I have taken exquisite pains to maintain my level of discretion. It may seem elaborate to you but it has become second nature to me. I may be gay but I don't have to let the rest of the world know it. I remain silent or neutral when gay issues are discussed in my presence. I tend to use neutral pronouns when referring to men I date (i.e., "they" for "he"; or "I'm attracted to this type of 'Person'"). I am terrified of being clocked, although I don't like to admit that. There can be real negative consequences to being "out" and I don't want to risk it. I prefer to present my case as if my secrecy is a casual option. It is hard to acknowledge the amount of energy I expend "fooling" people when they probably already know. I don't need to spend too much time on it though. After all…

Closetspeak (Malik): "There's more to me than being Gay." Translation: If only my gayness were a limb that I could chop off. I am uncomfortable with gay activists who draw attention to their gay identity because they rock the boat. That's why its necessary for me to state the obvious. I don't want people to concentrate on that dimension of me. I regard that part of myself with considerable disdain. It has brought about so much shame throughout my childhood. I believe that if I work hard and prove to be a productive citizen, that will make up for being "that way". But you know…

Closetspeak (Keith): "I may be gay but at least I'm not flamboyant." Translation: I trust that my masculinity will shield me from scorn. That's why I can only tolerate transgendered people if they are male-to-female and performing on a stage. As a child I saw what happened to the effeminate boys. A litany of epithets followed "Curtis" across the playground -- punk, faggot, sissy, homo. It didn't matter that "Tyrone" was humping on boys too. When Curtis walked by everybody including Tyrone would call him out. I don't wanna go out like that. As long as I act like a "man", everything will be cool. I can't see how I am playing myself. I say to myself that I'm gay and that's okay. I can use the "Curtises" to feel more normal by comparison. I can't recognize how even my issues have issues! Yeah, I'm still a man! I don't

(continued on page 3)

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Assoc. Director, Public Relations

Robert Mathis
Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Craig Washington
Vice-Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Contributing Writers
Darryl!
Kenneth A. Johnson
Gregory Cosby
Steven Samuels

2ND READ is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of SECOND SUNDAY. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at 404.325.7321, or e-mail us at PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 MARCH 1999

12 **B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY**
2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSION
Friday, MARCH 12, 1999 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

14 **2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting**
"ADDICTIONS -- Breaking The Cycle"
Sunday, MARCH 14, 1999 • 6:30 PM
LAMBDA CENTER
823 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

16 **SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB**
"WHAT LOOKS LIKE CRAZY..." by Pearl Cleage
Tuesday, MARCH 16, 1999 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

26 **"BROTHAS" BOWLING NIGHT**
Friday, MARCH 26, 1999 • 11:00 p.m. - Until
EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta, GA
(404) 874-5703

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard s. moultrie, jr.

WHERE IS THE LOVE?

Electing officers for SECOND SUNDAY often proves to be an anxious time since members rarely clamor for the positions. However, this year's time for elections finds the organization in an outright crisis! Currently only one member has agreed to run for an office -- that being the position of Secretary. Consequently, the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer remain open with no current prospects for qualified candidates. Brothers, why must it be this way? Where is the love for OUR organization? Where is the commitment?

It is selfish for SECOND SUNDAY members and those who attend our regular meetings to relegate the business operation of the organization to a small core of devoted brothers. It is unfair to expect SECOND SUNDAY to continually recycle the same members who serve in office, thereby requiring the same members to occupy different leadership roles. It is shortsighted to presume and assume that SECOND SUNDAY can survive without a diverse pool of ideas and creativity from which to engineer its expansion.

Too frequently, moreover, the work done by officers and in our committees must be performed by the same members. Too frequently, the same individuals contribute articles for publication in this newsletter. And too frequently, those attending our monthly meetings return nothing to the organization in terms of service.

For these reasons, many officers begrudgingly continue to serve in positions despite their desire to contribute to the organization in different capacities. This results in a good deal of burn-out among those members, and sometimes, their withdrawal from SECOND SUNDAY altogether. This is a shame -- both because it robs the organization of some of its most active members; and because it is a circumstance that can be avoided if more brothers assume leadership responsibility.

Listen brothers, while it does not hurt to preach about achieving lofty goals like empowerment and cohesion for the African-American, gay community, it does not help either; unless those words are buttressed by committed action, those calls for activism ring hollow. We need you brothers to do more than show up on the second Sunday of each month to look cute, complain, and/or make speeches. Accept nomination to an office or volunteer on a committee. It is time to walk the talk! ■

WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE MEAN, *continued from page 2...*

know why those queens choose to act that way. Yes, but...

Closetspeak (Gladys): "People should be able to live whatever lifestyle they choose." Translation: I cannot admit to my own homophobia. Although I consider myself a liberal thinker, I certainly don't support their lifestyle. That's why I call it "lifestyle" instead of sexual orientation. I believe that people choose to live and be this way. I have to believe it's a choice -- if not, then I would have to accept it as a natural state of being. I would have to equate homosexuality with the same legitimacy as my heterosexual experience. I just can't go there. Lately they've been getting out of hand. You would think they were an oppressed minority. After all...

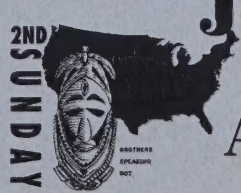
Closetspeak (Marvus): "You cannot compare being Black to being gay." Translation: I cannot see how different identity oppressions are all related to the common root of patriarchal domination that sustains racism, classism, sexism, homophobia and erotophobia (fear of the erotic). I refuse to believe that despite differences between gayness and Blackness, both identities are targeted with social and individual assaults. All I can see is how my Blackness has won me the distinction of being the ultimate nigger. To acknowledge the similarity between racism and homo-hatred is too far ahead and I don't want to stretch that far. I get pleasure from my comfort zone and power from my victim status. No matter how bad your blues are, they ain't like mine. I have cultivated my wounds so well. Even though in some cases I am accepted by white folk, because...

Closetspeak (Lesley): "When I see Pamela, I don't see an African-American woman, I see a woman!" Translation: I cannot acknowledge my own covert racism. I certainly don't see myself as a racist. I've done a lot of work to see African-American people not as "black" but as "human". That's because on some level I cannot reconcile the two concepts. In order to really see their humanity I have to not see their Blackness. That way I can erase my fear of Black people without ever having to face it. That's why I strive for a "color-blind" society. I have a stigmatism of the soul and I see "differences" as "divisions". But if I can remain unsighted then I never have to deal with my baggage; or the fact that Pamela is not only a Black woman she is a lesbian. That's okay, cause at least she is still feminine. You know...

Closetspeak (Cinque): "Because I like the lesbians that are still ladies, you know the lipstick lesbians... they are so fierce!" Translation: Lesbians are okay with me as long as they present a specific non-threatening image of womanhood. Even though I am a gay man, and in many ways I defy the codes of appropriate sexual orientation and gender behavior, I prefer lesbians to conform to that model. Because of my identity, I assume that I of course could not be sexist. Women that have masculine energy are breaking the rules I have internalized, even though I am very "out". I don't even realize that we as gay men can accept more kinds of female images besides the typical hetero-male accepted type. Ultra-femme icons and butch men who look like trade are the bomb. Dreadlocked or baldheaded dykes just would not work 'cause they could not work the runway. Unless of course, a powerful fashion mogul from Milan declared them en vogue. I mean I love Meshell Ndege-what's-her-name but she's no Whitney. She's so dykey. I just don't see her. I just don't see... ■

FILM SCREENING

FILM SCREENING



JOIN US IN APRIL

a LETTER to the editor

darryl! OUR COMMON BOND: WE AS ONE

As we look to the coming of the millenium our challenge should be to not carry with us pain from the past as sword and shield for our future. It is time for us to really do the work of living and being together. The differences that exist among us should be seen as opportunities to knit ourselves closer together -- not distance ourselves from each other. These seeming differences are in actuality the make up of our diversity. What we must find is our common bond.

Let all the people who have been marginalized, ostracized, ridiculed, condemned, and shunned now see themselves as ***valued, important, connected, revered, uplifted, and respected***. But those who have been in the former light must guard the front lines so that no one is mistreated again. We cannot continue to master the lessons of the "masters" from our former days of slavery. There is a well known story of the origins of slavery that teaches people how to create the perfect slave mentality. It involves instituting as many divisions between people as can be imagined: men against womyn, parents against children, old against young, light against dark, strong against the weak, healthy against the sick, rich against poor, educated against the unlearned, tribe against tribe, people against people, spirit against spirit, and so on and so on and so on.....

Beloved, because we know this is what was intended for us, we must fight with every ounce of our being NOT to continue this ill-gained pattern of thinking and acting (reacting). We must seek out, from within ourselves, every fiber of bigotry and supplant them with cords of truth and love. We must then assist each other to communally stamp out all the residue of hate that was so craftily and deceptively instilled in our very psyche and which still works against us at every turn.

Challenge yourself to consider and reconsider -- when you find yourself not getting along, distrusting others, feeling insecure, generally not liking someone, or disregarding another, consider whether your attitude is the result of a genuine experience you had with this person (group) or whether you are reacting out of some unseen force that is impacting your ability to communicate and connect? Once you have the answer then work through it. It may be that the cause for the discord is genuine but any problem can be corrected, any disconnection can be reconnected, any breach can be mended. You have to want it. You have to be willing to do the work that it takes to get through the personalities, pain, or danger. We MUST stop seeing each other as the enemy and see ourselves as One. We must begin to realize the power of WE AS ONE. United, indivisible, unconquerable, and inseparable are we. WE AS ONE. Imagine the Power. Imagine the Love. Imagine the Future.

OUR COMMON BOND: WE AS ONE!

Peace, Beloved. ■

TOPIC of the MONTH

robert mathis BREAKING THE CYCLE: ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE/DEPENDANCE

"Can I drink once a week or even once every two weeks and still be considered an alcoholic?" "Can a person who uses drugs once a month abuse drugs?" "How do you know when you are being affected by drugs?" "If I smoke one joint a week does that mean I have a problem with drugs?" "What's the difference between abusing drugs and being addicted?" These and other questions will be addressed at the next 2ND SUNDAY meeting as we discuss the topic: **Breaking the Cycle: Alcohol and Drug Abuse/Dependence**.

Alcohol and drug abuse are a serious problem in our community. They are also problems we continue to deny as a community. There are a number of brothers who have serious alcohol and/or drug issues but no one says anything to them. We all know many of these brothers. Some of them are community workers. Others are close friends. Still others are family members. All of them show signs of a struggle; one that will, if they continue the abuse, eventually overcome them, causing a tremendous amount of pain to all those around them. Brothers who struggle with using alcohol and drugs are more apt to have unprotected sex, therefore increasing their risk of infection. They are more apt to have a low tolerance for pain and tend to be retarded in their emotional development, making it more difficult for them to establish intimate relationships with others.

This presentation will begin to address some of the basic issues surrounding the problem of alcohol and drug abuse/ dependence. Participants are expected to learn five (5) points:

1. The types of drugs commonly abused;
2. The definition of abuse and addiction;
3. How to recognize the symptoms of abuse and addiction;
4. How alcohol and drugs have affected brothers; and
5. Interventions that help.

Knowing the first four points will prove to be particularly useful in making interventions for the purpose of helping our brothers. Breaking the cycle is about helping these brothers to break away from their chemical prisons. It is about taking individual responsibility in confronting the denial that is so rampant within ourselves. Breaking the cycle is not about stopping our brothers from abusing chemicals. It is more about making us more aware of how important it is for them to be more accountable for their actions. ■

2ND SUNDAY

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

!! ADDICTIONS !!

BREAKING THE CYCLE:

ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE / DEPENDENCE

Are addictions getting in the way of your life?

How do you know if you are being affected by drugs?

What's the difference between abusing drugs and being addicted?

Join our discussion as we identify and recognize the symptoms of abuse and addiction, and ways to diffuse their hold on your life.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lambda Center

828 West Peachtree Street • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

SECOND SUNDAY NEWS

kenneth a. johnson "ASK NOT WHAT YOUR..."

Now is the time to step up to the plate and run this organization! If the Conference weekend proved anything, it proved that we can be about business, and I believe SECOND SUNDAY is the business we should be about!

If you weren't present for our February meeting, then you won't recognize these words I shared in a voice raspy from an overly enthusiastic weekend of networking, socializing, and learning with my brothers and sisters at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's annual conference in Atlanta. If you were present, then I pray these words still reverberate in your memory and will urge you to consider a SECOND SUNDAY leadership position.

At our membership meeting at month's end, we will elect our organization's leadership for the next year. In order to do that, we must have a slate of viable candidates to elect. It's not too late. A statement of interest introducing yourself, providing a "gay resume" of information, and expressing your vision for SECOND SUNDAY should be sent to me as soon as possible. The Nominations and Elections committee will arrange to meet with you for a "get acquainted" interview prior to the March general membership meeting and election. I can be reached at **(404) 355-5739** or via e-mail at **Elections@SecondSunday.org**.

2ND NEWS

I leave you with the final thought I shared at the February meeting--

Instead of creating excuses for why you can't be an officer, use that same energy to think of how you can make it happen and do it! ■

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to:

2ND READ
c/o SECOND SUNDAY
Post Office Box 78705
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705

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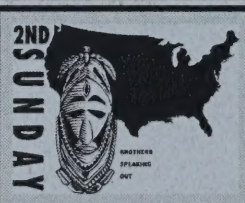

2ND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Quarterly Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1999 • 6:30 PM

LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta

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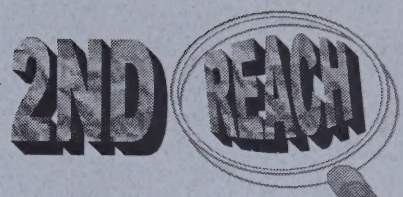
INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

gregory cosby EXPLORING OUR GENEALOGY



Our ancestors' presence did not pass away with them when they died. Their life's work still impacts our lives. Our ancestors still guide, protect and help us in today's world. If we look closely at their struggle we will learn lessons that they left behind. Their lessons help us, their descendants, reap the harvest of their journey here on earth.

I will never forget my first visit to Locum, North Carolina. It was seven years ago. During the visit, my cousin took me to the gravesite of my great-grandparents. Their graves were located on the plantation where they served as slaves.

I finished the first stage of a genealogy project last year. I traced my ancestors back to the late 1700's. On Sunday, March 28, 1999, I will share with the members of 40-Plus my experience in researching my family's past.

Black genealogy can be difficult at times. I will give helpful tips on how you can get started on your search for your ancestors. We will explore resources and material that can be found here in Atlanta. Also, we will discuss the reason why so many people are researching at this time. Please bring information, stories and questions about your family. Hope to see you there. ■

40-PLUS

JOIN US FOR OUR MARCH DISCUSSION MEETING

"AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGY: HOW TO EXPLORE YOUR PAST AND THE TOOLS NEEDED TO DO IT"

Sunday, March 28, 1999

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Atlanta Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street

This monthly forum examines the issues important to men approaching forty years of age and older.

The meetings are open to Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent over the age of thirty-five.

The meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Come Join the Discussion!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
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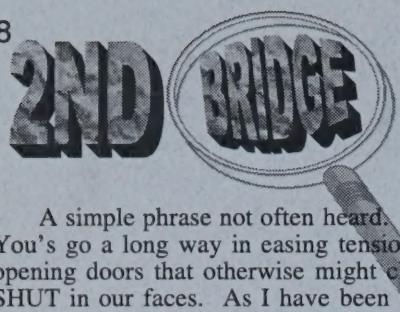
2ND SUNDAY BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY



the COMMUNITY BRIDGE

darryl! "THANK YOU!"

A simple phrase not often heard. Thank You's go a long way in easing tensions and opening doors that otherwise might close or SHUT in our faces. As I have been around in the community the last couple of years I've noticed that there are often a few unthanked people doing so much to make our lives better. I thought it was time to honor them. Think about the circles you travel in...someone took the time to organize, or at the very least set in motion, the activity or event you are involved in.

Think back on the last few community events you attended -- who made it happen? Even going out to a club involves someone doing some work to make it possible. Yes, clubs don't mind taking your money (so you can have a good time) but what would you do if those places did not exist? Without **SECOND SUNDAY, ITLA, Folami, Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta, Circle of Love, Brothers Back 2 Back, Friends For Life, Zami, Conscious Connections, My Brothaz Keeper, Forty-Plus, Indigo Arts**, or **The Atlanta Lambda Center** what would you do, where would you go, where would you do what you do? Without the work of **BGMT, Fusion, Traxx, Loretta's, The Marquette Lounge, Sunshine Productions** and others what would you do instead? Without **Agape Inc., AESM, Sister Love, Outreach Inc., ARCA, Deeper Love, Womyn Loving Womyn, GEP**, and others where would you get the support and help that you need?

The people behind the scenes (and occasionally in front of the cameras) who make up these places and organizations are our community, let's take the time to appreciate them. In most cases these people are not thanked tangibly -- but Thank You goes a long way when money is not available. In fact, Thank You can make it all worth while. So call folk up: thank your friends, family, surrogate family, leaders, teachers, preachers. Thank your (supposed) enemies because they keep the fuel going that encourages you to go on and LIVE regardless of the circumstances or obstacles.

Lastly, it is not enough to suggest that you say thank you to others. I want to take this time to say Thank You to you as well. Over the last, almost three years, I have been embraced, supported, and encouraged as a part of this community. Many of you have laughed with me, some have cried with me, but all of you have challenged me to live up to my own potential. I want you to know that I appreciate your support for the work that is being done in the community.

Last year was a tremendously powerful year. I experienced extreme trauma and the loss of several close friends and brothers. I experienced the shifting of my familial relationships and the loss of innocence, as it relates to my family. Despite those challenges it was one of the most rewarding years, as well. The work of **Unity** flourished, with **AID Atlanta** and **Positive Impact** we inaugurated Friends For Life, and to top it off you joined with **ITLA** and me to make ***Atlanta's Black LBGT Pride Celebration*** the most successful, ever. Through all of this you have helped support the work that has built strong institutions for our community from **SECOND SUNDAY** to **ITLA**, from **Unity** to **Friends For Life** you have made the difference.

Sometimes, I think, those of us who "do the work" forget that if it were not for you participating and supporting there would be no work. So I want to pause, in this early part of the year... before you get asked for any more money, before you are asked to take on new leadership roles, before you are asked to support... or sacrifice... simply to say "THANK YOU". From me to all of you. Thank you for who you are and who you are becoming. Thank you for letting me be a part of you. Thank You!

Peace and Blessings. Nguzo Saba, 24/7. ■

Darryl! is Executive Director of In The Life Atlanta, Inc. and an active member of SECOND SUNDAY.

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT
sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

- Your confidentiality will be respected
- Every 3rd Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams, Co-Coordinator

Kevin Bynes, Co-Coordinator

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

duncan teague SO WE'RE NOT DOING A RALLY. WHY?

Near the end of last year, I got an e-mail from a friend and fellow leader in the Atlanta Afriqueer community that disturbed me. He suggested that we not do the Bayard Rustin Rally the Monday of the King Holiday as we had the last three years. We, the African-American queer contingent, began a tradition of rallying, then walking down Peachtree in the gay contingent of the March. I considered the Bayard Rustin Rally a successful public event that required some work, but not as much as the other larger events the African-American lesbian and gay folk put on here in Atlanta. I also thought there was a bias developing around not doing public events and that really got under my very "out-focused" skin. Lastly, I wondered if we were being hypocritical by doing something that was just about the Afriqueer community in a space not as "out" as Peachtree Street and by calling it an event to honor one so brave and forthright as Bayard Rustin.

Well, we did have an event that was not on the street and it was just as "out" as the rally ever was. We did it in a way that cared for the participants and organizers in ways that I had not witnessed very often in our work or play. And this event probably spoke so much more to the skill organizing that was a hallmark of Bayard Rustin's intelligence and values, especially his legacy of organizing the Black folk who attended the 1963 March on Washington. Mr. Rustin was largely responsible for the successful execution of that day's events. He led the prior organizing, all the while as a very known homosexual man, even out to his colleague and friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King even defended his role in the march when others wanted him sacrificed for the sake of their sensibilities and homophobia.

Our event, The Evening of Healing and Reconciliation, was put together with a gathering of the "who does what" in our Atlanta community among Black gays and lesbians. (I did not include transgendered folk in this group because we failed to take the necessary steps to involve that part of our community; to our credit, it was noted and discussed.) If I name names then I may get into a world of trouble so I will list affiliations. Leaders from the following groups were present at least during some of the times we met if not always: Folami, SECOND SUNDAY (Board, Co-Chairs, Topics Committee, previous leadership), ADODI Muse, The Atlanta Host Committee for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, Deeper Love Project of AID Atlanta, Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta, and Brothers Back-2-Back, to name a few. The planning, processing and execution of the event was truly representative of the organized Black queers in the city. Yes, there were some groups not at the table, but not because of conscious omission. These days, that is miraculous. We came together, changed an established event, and put on an entirely new one successfully (maybe we did build the pyramids.)

I am most proud of our goal to put issues before this community of participants and to lead them in a process to prioritize the issues according to *their* desires. We, the organizers of the event, struggled with not coming into the room with a xeroxed agenda to impose on the attendees. This was the time for the people in the community to tell us what issues they felt were important. This was so monumental and I hope that the coverage the Southern Voice gave to the decisions that we made helped to show the significance of our coming together to do this. I was not shocked but surprised by the issues that rose to the fore of the process. I agree with all of them, though I may not be willing to work as hard on some of them as I would on others. The room was filled with about fifty-plus women and men which was very heart warming and made for an evening of which we can be proud. (The food was excellent also. Having good food is a wonderful organizing tool.) We set a workable list of priority issues on paper in a friendly and productive manner.

We ended the two-hour-plus process identifying the following priority issues of the community: 1) working to **ensure we have space** that we can own and use for our efforts; 2) working on the issues surrounding the community and **The Black Church**; and 3) working on **Internalized Homophobia**. What made these three rise to the top of the ten that we considered? A simple democratic process. These were the three that most people felt strongly about. But it did not stop there; that was the icing on the activist cake. We asked the participants to take these issues back to their organizations and strategize around them. In six months we will look at what we have done regarding all three of these issues. It will be interesting to see what we have done by June 30, 1999. ■

steven samuels B.W.M.T./ATLANTA: FACT OR FICTION

Over the years I've heard many uninformed ideas about the group and they seem to reoccur to people frequently ...especially to those who never attend any of our events or only attend one or two events. In the following notes I will try to separate fact from fiction about Black & White Men Together:

I) **The name means that one must be in a relationship or prefer dating people of another "race".** That's FALSE! Please read the statement of purpose. The only race we are concerned with at BWMT is the HUMAN RACE... black, white, red, yellow, male, female and the occasional extra-terrestrial!

II) **BWMT is a sex club.** FALSE! Our activities are social, cultural, recreational, educational and political... designed to support our members' interests. We like sex. You might find it. But it's not our party.

III) **BWMT is for MEN only.** FALSE!

IV) **BWMT is for couples only.** FALSE!

V) **"I get hit on too much/too little at BWMT functions."** Well, some people will be unhappy regardless. I've been "hit-on" at Kroger's and ignored in gay bars, so that's just everyday life. Could it be that you are the ONE that's MOST RESPONSIBLE for what happens to YOU in YOUR SOCIAL LIFE?

VI) **Why don't you change the name to include everyone?** TRADITION!!! We like that our roots began in fighting black/white racism in AMERICA, specifically the south. -- Georgia and ATLANTA. We frankly see that this battle has not yet ended. There are still too many Archie bunkers and George Jefferson's in this country and NOT ENOUGH Weezie Jefferson's and Edith Bunkers! We exclude no one and accept everyone!

VII) **"I don't date interracially, but want to support my friend(s) who do.** Great! If you like people, you'll like BWMT.

VIII) **"I'm afraid of what my family/friends/co-workers might think if I participate in BWMT activities."** Well maybe you should invite them to accompany you. It sounds like they need a little fresh air in those closed minds!

IX) **"There are too many stereotypes about interracial dating."** There you go again, worrying about what some nameless faceless people think. Who cares? When you meet and interact with other people you'll find that there are all types. Stereotypes are one groups' superficial characterizations of another group, used to reinforce ostracism of that people. Do you believe the stereotypes that Republicans and Fundamentalist Christians use against gays? Do you believe that every other woman/man/black/white/Jew/Christian/gay/straight/brother/sister/father/mother is just like their other group mates? NO? I didn't think so!

X) **"BWMT doesn't do the activities that I like to do."** Well, get off your butt and help us organize those activities! If you like to just sit still and be entertained, there is

(continued on page 10)

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

My friend, Carson, began dating a white guy recently and I am very upset with him as a result. Now, Carson is my boy. We go way back -- to high school, in fact. I talked to him about this guy he is seeing (his name is Jonathan). I told Carson that I believe that Jonathan is probably interested in him because of "Mandingo fever." I told Carson that as a dark-skinned, muscular brother, white guys are always going to be on his tip for this reason. I realize that my fears for Carson's welfare in this situation may be premature, but he's my best friend and I do not want him to be hurt. Should I continue to express my concerns or just let it go and let it flow?

--True Blue

Yo Blue:

My first question to you (and I have several) is this: Is Carson happy? Has Carson said anything to suggest to you that Jonathan's intentions are not honorable? What is your evidence that Jonathan intends any of the ominous objectives you imagine? I appreciate that you love Carson very much, and desire the best for him. But listen, love is also about trust. So love Carson enough to trust him to know when or if his interaction with Jonathan is no longer healthy for him.

Also, I noticed that you did not indicate that Carson dates white men exclusively. Obviously, if Carson appeared to have difficulty appreciating men who look like himself, your concerns for his emotional well-being might be justified. In Carson's case, however, it seems -- from the information you provided -- that your "boy" deserves more credit than you are currently giving him. Chill out, Blue, and provide Carson with the kind of support that he should be able to expect from a friend. Lastly, I would venture to guess that Carson's physical attributes attract the attention of white, black, yellow and red folk alike! ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

B.W.M.T./ATLANTA, *continued from page 9...*

usually a TV or radio at most of our functions, and you're welcomed to it! But unfortunately the other people having fun around you may disturb your remote controlled world. You might prefer to stay at home anyway. You can be a King or Queen of your own castle, but at our functions the princes and princesses all party together!

XI) **"I don't drink, am in AA, etc...."** There are many that share your concerns in our group and there is no pressure to do anything that you are uncomfortable with. Food, talk, singing, dancing, joking, fun, etc. predominate at our events. We've always said that BWMT is a great alternative to dim lit, loud, over-priced bars. BWMT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT!

XII) **"I met so-and-so at BWMT and don't like so-and-so, blah, blah, blah..."** Cant help you there. Are you going to let one or two people keep you away from all the wonderful people you can meet at BWMT? Well then you may be deprived of many good experiences in life. Let me share with you a couple of phrases I've found useful each time I've used them: #1. "NO". #2. "GET LOST". ■

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND SUNDAY

PROUD!
GIFTED!
BLACK!

FOR SAME-GENGER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
OR JOIN TODAY

CALL (404) 325-7321 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHERE THE BOYZ ARE 1999

...AND THE MENZ, TOO.

BE THERE!!

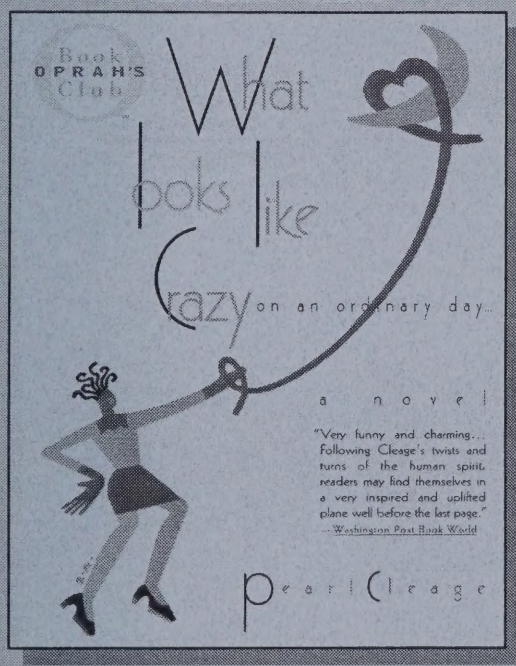
2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

MARCH Book Pic:
"What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day"
by Pearl Cleage
-- Avon Books $12.00 --


Oprah's Book Club
What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day
a novel
"Very funny and charming... Following Cleage's twists and turns of the human spirit, readers may find themselves in a very inspired and uplifted plane well before the last page."
--Washington Post Book World
Pearl Cleage

March 16, 1999
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY for the next Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB to discuss Pearl Cleage's novel "What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day."

"Engrossing, entertaining... [a] wryly observant, moving tale... WHAT LOOKS LIKE CRAZY is a smart novel that will have readers laughing in recognition of the foibles of human nature as it lays bare its characters' -- and our own -- assumptions about class, sexuality, and love in unexpected and thoroughly gratifying ways."
--Atlanta Journal-Constitution

After a decade of elegant pleasures and luxe living among the Atlanta brothers and sisters with the best clothes and biggest dreams, Ava Johnson has temporarily returned home to Idlewild -- her fabulous career and power plans smashed to bits by cold reality. But what she imagines is the end is, instead, a beginning. Because, in the ten-plus years since Ava left, all the problems of the big city have come to roost in the sleepy North Michigan community whose ordinariness once drove her away; and she cannot turn her back on friends and family who sorely need her in the face of impending trouble and tragedy. Besides which, that one unthinkable, unmistakable thing is now happening to her: Ava Johnson is falling in love.

Acclaimed playwright, essayist and columnist Pearl Cleage has created a world rich in character, human drama, and deep, compassionate understanding, in a remarkable debut novel that sizzles with sensuality, hums with gritty truth, and sings and crackles with life-affirming energy as it moves the reader to laughter and tears.

This Month's Book Pic Available at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

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Sandwiches. Desserts.

DEARDRIA NESBITT
"BACK IN THE DAY"
Wednesday, March 10, 8pm

PENNY MICKELBURY
"WHERE TO CHOOSE"
Tuesday, March 30, 8pm

THE SOUTH'S SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR LIVES

March COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Saturday, 3/06/99

7:30 p.m. BWMT/Atlanta hosts a Potluck at Mel & Ron's house. Meet the Men of the 1999 Champions Calendar, Stone Mountain, GA. Call (404) 292-7784 for directions and more info.

Friday, 3/12/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSIONS. Party with the Men of SECOND SUNDAY and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) at Club Fusion, located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Sunday,3/14/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "ADDICTIONS -- BREAKING THE CYCLE: ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE/DEPENDENCE. SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Sunday, 3/16/99

7:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB Meeting. Discussing Pearl Cleage's "What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day" at OutWrite Bookstore, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for more information.

Sunday, 3/21/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Friday, 3/26/99

11:030 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY's "BROTHAS BOWLING NIGHT" Join your brothers for a night of bowling at Express Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

Sunday, 2/28/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; open to same-gender-loving Men of African Descent. This month's topic: "Still Together After All These Years" Held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for info.

Sunday, 3/28/99

6:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Meeting, to be held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

2ND SUNDAY

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

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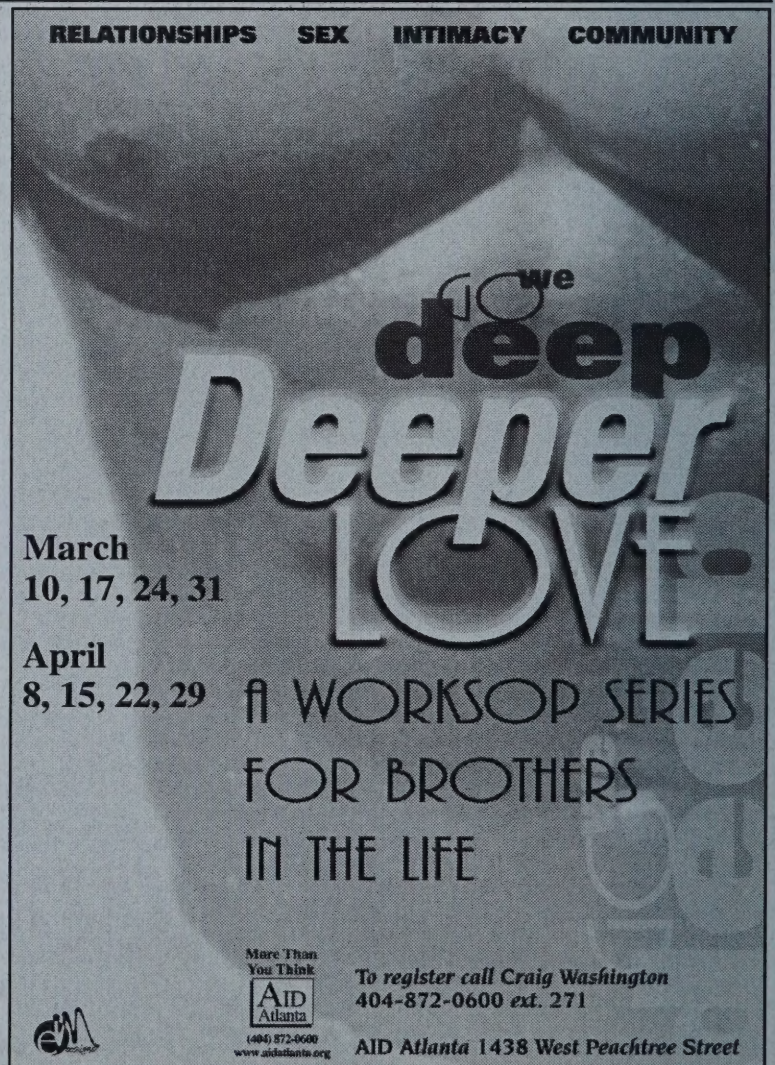

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BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND READ

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May 1999
Vol. 3
No. 4

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[URL] **http://www.SecondSunday.org** • [E-MAIL] **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org**

2ND SAY — *a message from our* Acting CHAIR

timothy d. murfree ADVANCING SECOND SUNDAY THROUGH A KEENER SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Thanks!

First and foremost I would like to thank the members of SECOND SUNDAY for electing me secretary. I would also like to thank the Board for allowing me to serve as Acting Chair and for the wonderful support they and the former Executive Committee members have provided.

A Keener Sense of Community

As Acting Chair, I want to encourage all of our members to develop a keener sense of community. SECOND SUNDAY was built and continues to thrive because of Brothers who have a sense of community. A sense of community is good. However, a keener sense is necessary for us to advance to a higher level.

We all have benefited from those who have a keen sense of community. For example, I benefited greatly while I was attending college by receiving a scholarship which was funded by an individual in my community. Having a keen sense of community requires us to think about what is outside of our "own world" while realizing that there are Brothers who have needs that are different from our own. The need for this type of sensitivity in our community necessitates SECOND SUNDAY addressing a variety of problems and issues in the form of 'serious', 'heavy', and 'clinical' topics. For example, SECOND SUNDAY has confronted challenges like addictions, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, internalized homophobia, and spirituality and the church.

These particular issues affect Brothers in our community in a variety of ways. By becoming educated about these issues, whether we feel affected by them, enables us to be fully aware when those around us are affected; for example, being able to identify if a friend or someone else you know has a problem with an alcohol addiction instead of wrongfully thinking: "Chile, he really likes to drink"; being able to recognize and identify a situation or yourself as domestically violent - not just seeing something as a case of "they fight all the time"; being able to attend a club and as part of the planned events for that evening to have someone get on stage and take a few minutes to say "Have a good time but practice safe sex, and be sure to get tested on a regular basis -- remember, it only takes one person to infect you;" being able to recognize internalized homophobia and understand the need to have compassion and be supportive of friends who are struggling with their sexuality and are not as comfortable with it as we are, as opposed to labeling them as 'crazy' or blaming them for the feelings they have; or being aware that there are individuals who are negatively affected by the message that is being delivered by the mainstream church and unaware of the power behind knowing and believing that God loves us and supports us exactly as we are.

I have said all of this to say that efforts are underway to include in the Bylaws a list of these types of topics that will be addressed at least once a year. This measure clearly supports the idea that SECOND SUNDAY is working towards a keener sense of community in the sense that these topics are discussed in very few places outside of our organization in an environment specifically targeted to Brothers while reaching the numbers that we do. In addition, addressing these particular types of topics at least once a year makes sense because of the fact that Brothers (inclusive of the younger Brothers who are entering the local colleges and universities and are away from home for the first time) are moving here from other cities which may not have had an organization such as SECOND SUNDAY.

Fundraising and Other Activities

There is serious work that needs to be done for our organization -- particularly with the need to fill the vacant Executive Committee positions and encourage more volunteerism on the various committees. However, that does not mean that SECOND SUNDAY can not move forward with new and exciting initiatives. These will include planning new events to expand social opportunities and raise funds, presenting topics that are new and innovative, as well as expressing pride in our organization and the Brothers who have made it happen in a very special way.

The support of all members is needed above and beyond the yearly membership fee and attendance at the monthly discussion meeting. Although you may not have time or want to serve on a committee, you can still be supportive of our fundraising efforts. Please come to Club Fusion on the second Friday of each month. Also, be sure to donate items for our yard sale on Saturday, June 12th, and come out and bring friends along as well. In addition, be sure to participate in or support our Bowl-A-Thon on Friday, June 25th, by making a pledge and encouraging friends to do the same. Developing a keener sense of community involves members expanding their support of our organization.

Your input is greatly encouraged and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board to advance our organization. I am always interested in hearing your perspective and greatly encourage your input. ■

*2ND READ is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of SECOND SUNDAY. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at **404.325.7321**, or e-mail us at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org***

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard s. moultrie, jr. **BABY, LIGHT MY FIRE!**

I shout "Yes!" each time I hear Lauryn Hill declare on her single, "Superstar" (from The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill): "Come on baby light my fire/Everything you drop is so tired/Music is supposed to inspire/How come we ain't getting no higher?" This statement speaks to my soul! It is a sentiment that comes to me often when I listen to much of today's music -- particularly music produced by African-American recording artists. While I've listened to disc jockeys, callers on radio shows, and friends alike who try to understand the success of Hill's debut album, I am not perplexed at all. For me, Hill's appeal lies, very simply, in her ability as a lyricist. Hill's poetic music and rap lyrics reach the broken places of my heart and spirit rarely touched by the offerings of her musical contemporaries.

For example, when Hill observes that, "What you want might make you cry/What you need might pass you by/If you don't catch it/And what you need ironically/Will turn out what you want to be/If you just let it...," I raise my hand in recognition. The sister is ministering about a revelation we both share -- and a truth which I know that others have experienced as well. Now contrast these words with those of other artists like Xscape ("You're My Little Secret") or Pressha's "Splackavellie" ("...every woman needs a man on the side/her own Splackavellie..."). Even new comer Tyrese disappoints. I can still recall the first time I listened intently to his single, "Sweet Lady." Initially I thought, "Wow, what a great song. And the brother is saying something positive!" But then, unfortunately, in the following verse Tyrese sang, "I heard you was taken/that don't have to stop you from makin'/Late night phone calls..."

Brothers, sisters, what are we accepting about who we are and what we deserve? Let's be clear: these words are not made innocuous merely by virtue of the fact that they appear in music. These words have power. They infect the minds of children, young people and adults as well. Is it any wonder that so many of us spend restless nights distressing over the frequent failure of our love relationships when we inundate our minds with these kinds of messages? Does it really surprise you that young Black men are killing each other in the name of a false sense of chivalry when the musical airwaves are polluted by brothers who regularly sing about devaluing another brother's relationship? Why are you confused when Black women commit terrible acts of violence out of the most misguided perceptions of love given the tendency of so many Black female artists to encourage"getting busy" with some other sister's man?

We -- the listening audience and buying public -- are to blame for the dissemination of this garbage by record producers. Who can blame a performing artist like R. Kelly for deciding to abort efforts at writing more

(continued on page 3)

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Associate Director, Public Relations

Timothy D. Murfree
Acting Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Contributing Writers
Kenneth A. Johnson
Roger Sneed

Graphics/Layout
Naylon Mitchell
Darrol C. De Andre

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to:

SECOND SUNDAY
Attn: 2ND READ
Post Office Box 78705
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705

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Phone: **(770) 435-5860**
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SECOND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 MAY 1999

5

'BROTHAS' THEATRE NIGHT
"S L A M"
Wednesday, MAY 5, 1999 • 8:00 p.m.
14TH STREET PLAYHOUSE
(404) 325-7321

9

2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting
" ? ? MYSTERY TOPIC ? ? "
Sunday, MAY 9, 1999 • 6:30 PM
LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

14

B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY & 40-PLUS
2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSION
Friday, MAY 14, 1999 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

18

SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB
"PARADISE" by Toni Morrison
Tuesday, MAY 18, 1999 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

22

SECOND SUNDAY FILM SCREENING
Saturday, MAY 22, 1999 • 6:00 p.m.
G.S.U. STUDENT CENTER BLDG.
2nd Floor - Capital Suite
(404) 325-7321

kenneth a. johnson YES, ANOTHER ELECTIONS ARTICLE

I didn't think I'd be writing another article. At this point in the year, I thought 2nd Sunday's officer positions would be filled. I held on to the hope that the campaigning, one-on-one discussions and previous articles would have been enough to get the job done. I was proven wrong. Almost two months after our officer elections, we're still looking at officer vacancies. Our secretary, elected at the March general membership meeting, has bravely stepped in to serve as Acting Chair in the absence of any other elected officers. Our outgoing treasurer has gallantly volunteered to continue maintaining the books for a short period of time. Our Board has pulled together to continue the business of SECOND SUNDAY without the benefit of a permanent leader to maintain accountability and steer the course. Our Elections Committee and others continue to beat the bushes and gently twist arms in hopes of finding officer candidates. So, much is going on outside of one Sunday a month to assure the viability and longevity of this organization. Now, I must turn to you and ask: ***What are you doing?***

This isn't the first time I've been in this position. I've recruited for many volunteer organizations over the years, yet I still don't know the magic formula or solar alignment needed to push folks from spectators to participants. What did it take for me to jump in from the sidelines and join the parade? I know I need to feel like I'm a part of something larger and greater than I am. Also, I enjoy working and connecting with other gay brothers in a way that is impossible in my heterosexist professional and family lives. The payback may not seem that great. The return may not be instant or easily apparent. Volunteering can often be thankless, yet giving of yourself to build the organization, community or world of your imagination has its rewards. For me, those rewards have been a family of friends, a sense of accomplishment, and the peace of knowing that my journey will make a difference in someone else's journey. Plus, I've enjoyed more than a few laughs, tales, and tears interspersed within the hours of meetings and conversations. No, it's not a paycheck, but I've enjoyed a few fringe benefits along the way.

What are you doing, now? Are you thinking that a 2nd Sunday leadership position may offer a reward worthy of your investment of time and energy? I hope you are at least thinking of having a conversation to discuss the possibilities. Before getting into the process of submitting a written statement of intent expressing your interest in an officer position and introducing yourself to the election committee, let's just talk about it. Call me at 404-355-5739 or drop me a line at **Elections@SecondSunday.org**. Maybe we can make this the last elections article of the century. ■

BABY, LIGHT MY FIRE!, *continued from page 2...*

spiritual anthems like "I Believe I Can Fly," when so many of us would rather shake our ass to songs like "Half on a Baby" and "I Love You Like My Jeep." To be sure, sexuality is in no way a theme foreign to the Black musical landscape. Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, and Barry White -- to name a few -- all sang movingly, and often times explicitly, about love-making. But these artists did so without dehumanizing and disrespecting the subject. Hill, like other icons in the Black recording industry before her, appreciates the high esteem in which love -- of God, of self, of others, of family, and of community -- should be held. I believe that if more of our music did indeed inspire us, as Hill opines, Black men and women would experience more peace on the streets, in their workplace, in their homes, in their bedrooms, and, most importantly, in their souls. ■

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND SUNDAY

PROUD!
GIFTED!
BLACK!

FOR SAME-GENGER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
OR JOIN TODAY
CALL (404) 325-7321 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FILM SCREENING
MAY 22, 1999
6:00 PM
Film Selection to be Announced at May 2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting
FREE
2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT
G.S.U. STUDENT CENTER BLDG.
2nd Floor - Capital Suite
[On Gilmer Street, Between Courtland & Piedmont, In Downtown Atlanta (1 block north of Decatur Street)]

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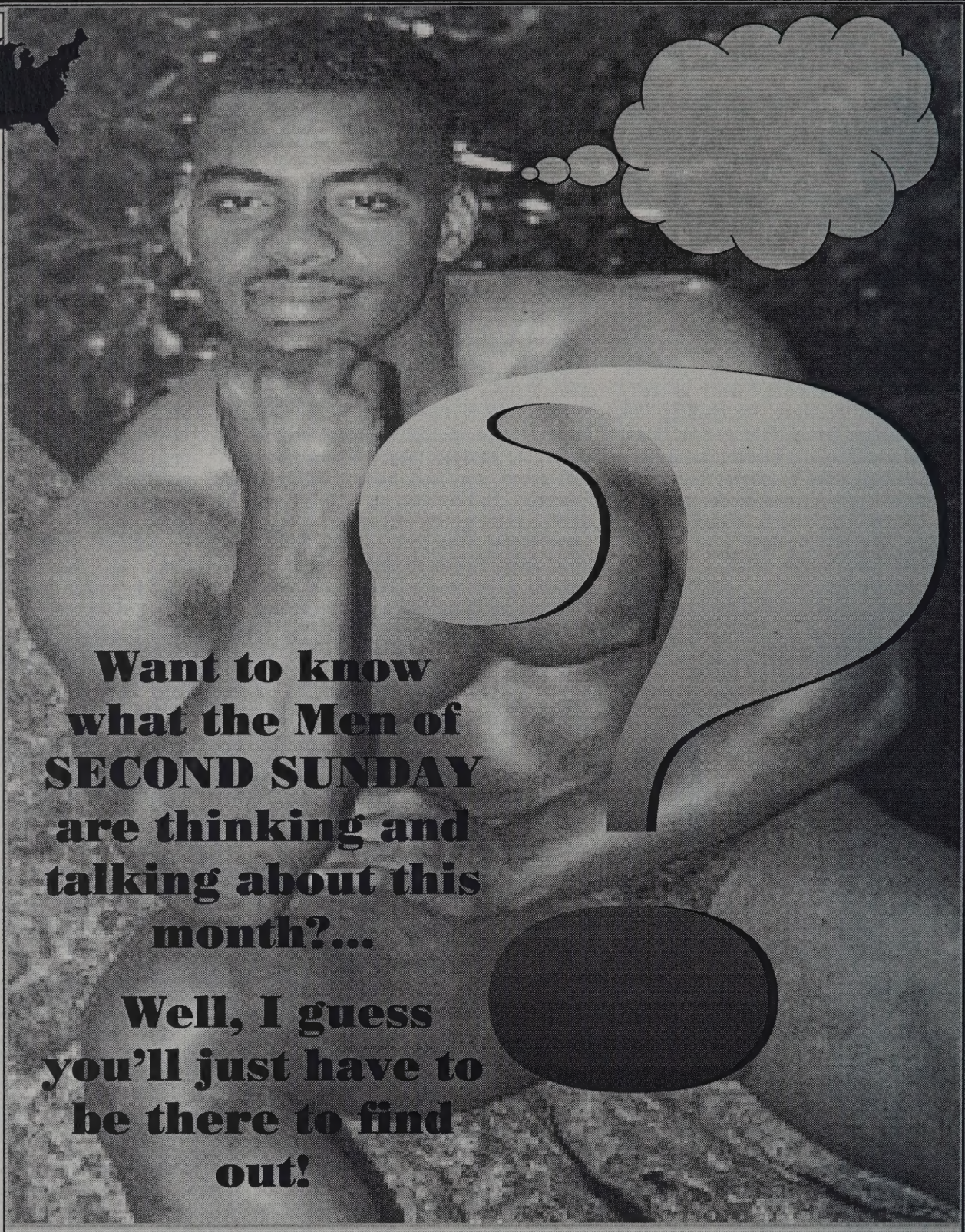
2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT


Want to know what the Men of SECOND SUNDAY are thinking and talking about this month?...
Well, I guess you'll just have to be there to find out!

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lambda Center

828 West Peachtree Street • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I am a brother who seriously desires a long-term relationship. As an individual I am very selective about whom I choose to date. I am also a very serious individual, goal-oriented and direct about my feelings. When I meet brothers I always make it clear that my energies are directed toward building a long-term relationship. I simply tell them that, "Only brothers interested in working towards a long-term relationship need inquire." Initially, the brothers that I meet do not seem troubled by my standards but after the first few dates these brothers appear to lose interest and stop returning my phone calls. I am not sure whether the brothers I date are intimidated by a brother who is serious about building a long-term relationship or if there is something about me that is driving them away. Tyrone, can you provide an explanation as to why this is happening to me?

--Standard Bearer

Hi Standard Bearer:

My response to your inquiry is a simple one. When you meet brothers intimidated by a man who is serious about values, goals, and commitment, repeat this mantra: good riddens! ■

Tyrone is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at SECOND SUNDAY, Attn.: 2ND READ, Post Office Box 78705, Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705. Or e-mail him at:

PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

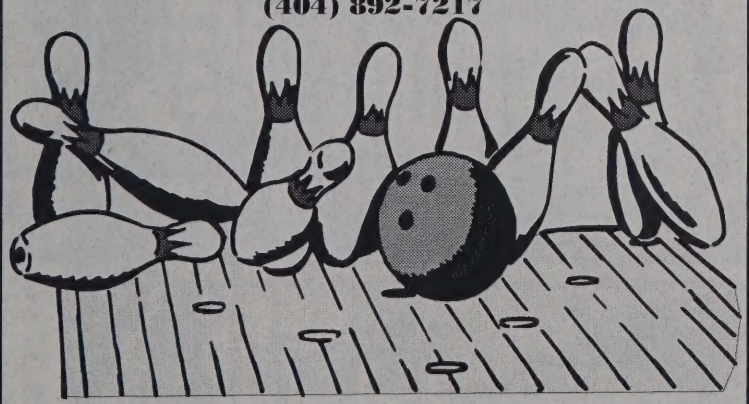
SECOND SUNDAY BOWL-A-THON

A Fundraiser and a FUN Time

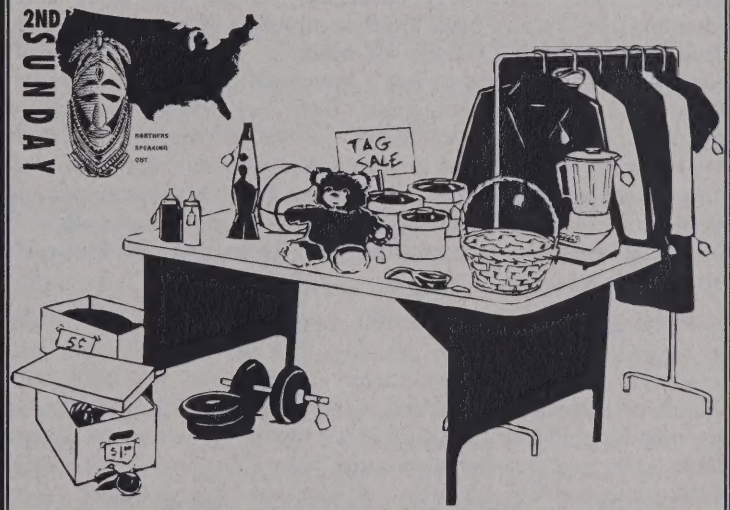
Friday,
JUNE 25, 1999
7:00 P.M.

Get friends and family to sponsor you for a Game, or per Pin for you expert bowlers. Sponsor sheets will be available at the next 2ND SUNDAY discussion meeting.

For more information contact Terry Hooks at (404) 892-7217



EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
1936 Piedmont Circle
Atlanta
(404) 874-5703



SECOND SUNDAY YARD SALE

Saturday, June 12th

Time: 9:00 a.m. - until

Location:
Terry's House, 897 Monroe Circle
Atlanta

Note: Contact Terry Hooks (404) 892-7217 For directions, information, and to donate items and make pick-up arrangements. Participants/Donators may sign up at The May 2ND SUNDAY General Meeting

2ND REVIEW

MUSIC / ENTERTAINMENT / LITERATURE

roger a. sneed ON THE SCENE

ABIDE WITH ME (E. Lynn Harris) --*A Review*

I've never been a fan of simplistic writing. When reading a book, I believe that I have to be drawn into the world of the character from the first line—and held in that world until the book ends. Reading a novel about someone's life should not feel like a chore; rather, the reading itself should feel almost as natural as thinking. That said, I must say that I found E. Lynn Harris' fifth novel and third installment of the Invisible Life trilogy, Abide With Me, a frustrating mess. I wanted to like the book, especially after the disappointing And This Too Shall Pass and the forgettable If This World Were Mine; however, the simplistic (and repetitive) prose and predictable (and uninteresting) plot twists made what could have been a good book simply mediocre.

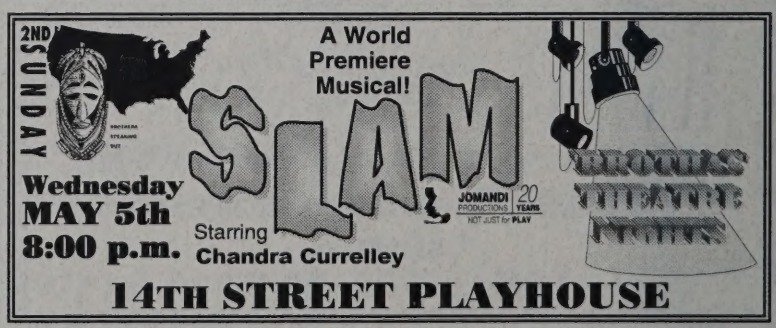
Abide With Me returns to Harris' original protagonists, Raymond Tyler (fabulously successful lawyer and now in a committed relationship with fraternity brother Trent) and Nicole Marie Springer-Stovall (fabulously beautiful, naïve, and successful Broadway actress married to Ray's best friend Jared). Also, Harris brings back perennial antagonist Basil Henderson (fabulously attractive ex-football player-turned sportscaster for ESPN2). For good measure, Harris throws in yet another antagonist in the form of Yancey Harrington Braxton. With a name like that (a disingenuous nod to the Bette Davis movie "All About Eve"), the reader is assured that melodrama in the style of "Dallas" or "Young and the Restless" is not far behind.

Raymond's story revolves around his nomination for a post on the federal bench and the ensuing FBI investigation into his background. Nicole's story centers (loosely) on her trials and tribulations stemming from Yancey's backstabbing manipulations. For some inexplicable reason, Yancey thirsts for revenge because Nicole some years earlier won some beauty crown that Yancey's absent mother could not win because she was pregnant. Or something like that. By the time Harris gets around to explaining Yancey's ridiculous behavior, it is far too little, too late. Basil's story isn't much of one. Every chapter that focuses strictly on him is spent in therapy, while he tries to figure out what is going on in his life since it was revealed that he had been molested by his uncle in If This World Were Mine. Apparently, he is still "in heat" over Raymond, and, as the plot would have it, attempts to take advantage of Raymond's marital difficulties in order to move in on Raymond. In the middle of this soup, Harris throws in so many new and old bit characters that it becomes even more confusing. Who is Yancey dating and why? We're reintroduced to Peaches, Kyle's mother (remember, Kyle is Ray's best friend who, tragically, died of AIDS in Just As I Am) and, of course, Ray's parents and brother, Kirby (who, is having a fabulous year of football at Northwestern University). The plot twists that follow all of these characters come fast and furious and not all with explanation or rationale. We the reader are supposed to swallow prima facie that Trent's, ahem, issues that threaten Ray's nomination stem from Ray being inattentive. We are also supposed to swallow Nicole's ridiculous naivete and Yancey's blind ambition. It is possible to take all of those (and more) situations with a grain of salt; however, the end of the book is the final insult. It is wrapped up in too pat a fashion. It cheats the reader—and the characters themselves—of real development.

Another point of frustration comes in the form of the characters themselves. Harris seems unable (or unwilling) to write about black gay men who do not have bodies by Bally's and six-figure incomes. Most of his main characters seem too fabulous for words. The men are wonderfully handsome and seem almost Herculean in their careers. The women are all beautiful and fabulous. His focus on characters with tax brackets of not less than $100,000 comes at the expense of working class black gay people. When Harris does (briefly) introduce a gay (well, in this case, bisexual) figure who is not middle to upper-middle class, he is a caricature. The person in the form of a friend of a friend of Trent's is a jobless, opportunistic, ignorant person with no redeeming social graces and very questionable morality. The underlying classism in this book is disappointing, especially since Harris' previous works have been built on dispelling prejudices against groups.

The "growth" that the main players in this drama experience is not growth that comes from living and learning; rather, their development is spurred on by byzantine plot devices and staccato conversations—not by heartfelt personal convictions and realistic life circumstances (with the possible exception of Ray's family crisis). Do the characters really change, or are they simply shaken by turns of events in their lives? The reader is not left with any sense that the people they encountered at the beginning of the book are fundamentally different at the end. Black America is sorely in need of writers who can chronicle the lives of black gay people. With the success of his first two books, Invisible Life and Just As I Am, Harris seemed poised to be a preeminent chronicler of our lives. However, with this latest release, it seems that he has not become as much a chronicler as he has become a caricaturist. ■

2ND SUNDAY
IT'S A B.G.M.T.
OL' SKOOL PARTY!
FuSion
"Get On Down and Party!" with BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER and the MEN of SECOND SUNDAY & 40-PLUS...
GROOVIN'... to Classic R&B and SOUL
2ND FRIDAY - May 14
10:00 PM 'til 1:30 AM
at CLUB FUSION
550-C AMSTERDAM AVE. • ATLANTA



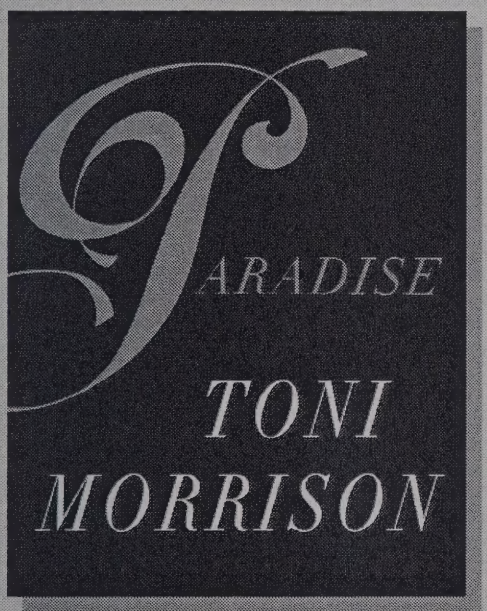
2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

MAY Book Pic:
"PARADISE"
by Toni Morrison
-- Plume Books $13.95 --



May 18, 1999

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY for the May Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB to discuss Toni Morrison's novel "PARADISE."

[For more information contact Terry Hooks (Director, Activities) at 404-892-7217]

"Morrison is at the top of her form, uniting the meticulous craftsmanship of early works like The Bluest Eye and Sula with the magical realism and deep moral insight of later works like Beloved... Impressive, eloquent, and powerfully imagined."

-- Baltimore Sun

"They shoot the white girl first. With the rest they can take their time." So begins this visionary work from a storyteller Newsweek hails as "the last classic American writer"; one who has been called "a major figure of our national literature" (New York Review of Books); and simply, "the best writer in America" (John Leonard). Toni Morrison's first novel since she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, Paradise opens with a horrifying scene of mass violence and chronicles its genesis in an all-black small town in rural Oklahoma. Founded by the descendants of freed slaves and survivors in exodus from a hostile world, the patriarchal community of Ruby is built on righteousness, rigidly enforced moral law, and fear. But seventeen miles away, another group of exiles has gathered in a promised land of their own. And it is upon these women in flight from death and despair that nine male citizens of Ruby will lay their pain, their terror, and their murderous rage.

In prose that soars with the rhythms, grandeur, and tragic arc of an epic poem, Toni Morrison challenges our most fiercely held beliefs as she weaves folklore and history, memory and myth into an unforgettable meditation on race, religion, gender, and a far-off past that is ever present.

This Month's Book Pic Available at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN
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Coffee. Beverages.
Sandwiches. Desserts.

•• Book Signing ••
E. Lynn Harris
"ABIDE WITH ME"
(Ballantine Books, $24.95)
Wednesday, May 5th
8:00 PM

THE SOUTH'S SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR LIVES

May COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Wednesday, 5/05/99

8:00 p.m. SLAM! A world premier musical. Join the Men of SECOND SUNDAY for 'Brothas' Theatre Night at 14th Street Playhouse.

Sunday,5/09/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "?? MYSTERY ??". SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Friday, 5/14/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ Club FUSIONS. 'Get On Down and Party' to classic R&B and Soul with the Men of SECOND SUNDAY, 40-PLUS and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) at Club Fusion, located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Sunday, 5/16/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Tuesday, 5/18/99

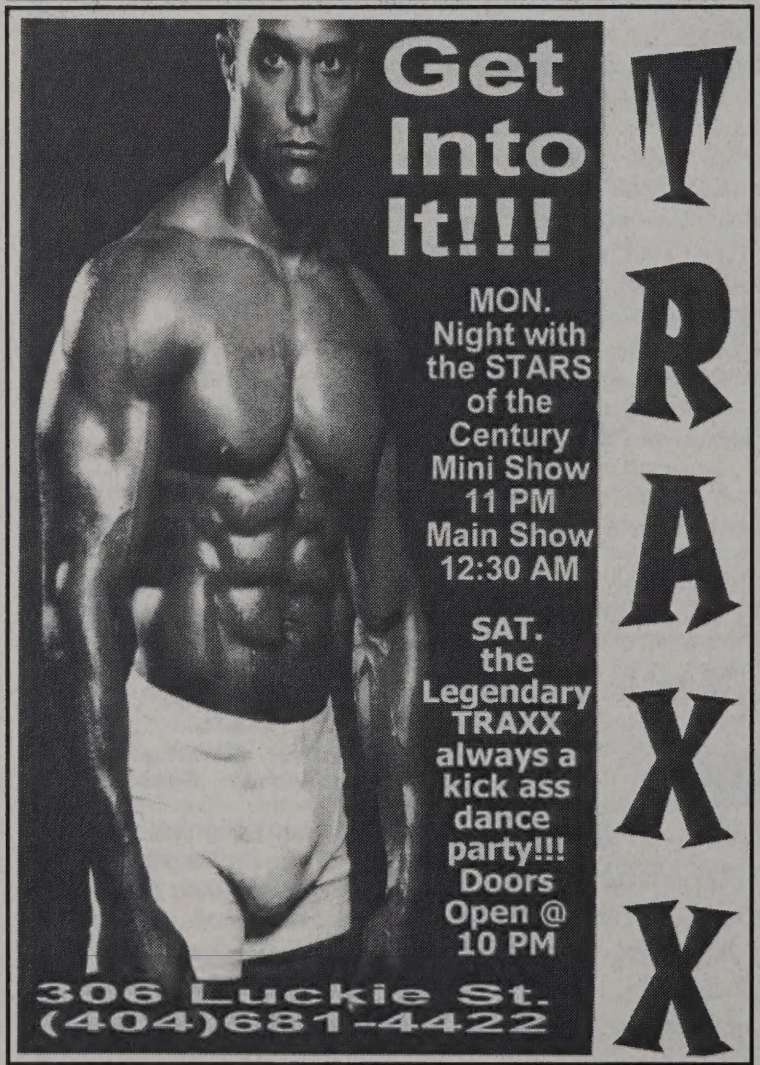
7:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB Meeting. Discussing Toni Morrison's novel *"PARADISE"* at OutWrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for more information.

Saturday, 5/22/99

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY hosts 'Brothas On Film': A Film Screening and Discussion at G.S.U. Student Center Bldg., 2nd Floor - Capital Suite, on Gilmer Street, Atlanta.

Sunday, 5/23/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; a forum for same-gender-loving Men of African Descent, thirty-five and older. Held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for information.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MON. Night with the STARS of the Century Mini Show 11 PM Main Show 12:30 AM
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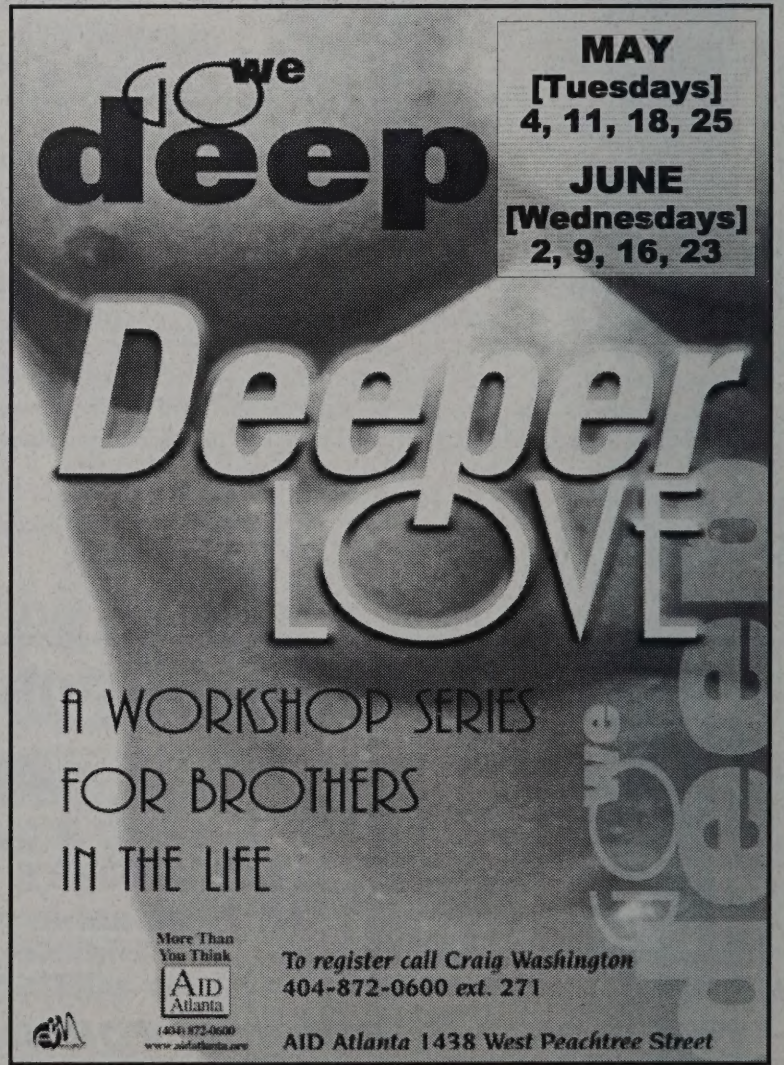
TRAXX



2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

May 1999
Vol. 3
No. 4

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

$2 VALUE
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[URL] **http://www.SecondSunday.org** • [E-MAIL] **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org**

2ND SAY

a message from our Acting CHAIR

timothy d. murfree ADVANCING SECOND SUNDAY THROUGH A KEENER SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Thanks!

First and foremost I would like to thank the members of SECOND SUNDAY for electing me secretary. I would also like to thank the Board for allowing me to serve as Acting Chair and for the wonderful support they and the former Executive Committee members have provided.

A Keener Sense of Community

As Acting Chair, I want to encourage all of our members to develop a keener sense of community. SECOND SUNDAY was built and continues to thrive because of Brothers who have a sense of community. A sense of community is good. However, a keener sense is necessary for us to advance to a higher level.

We all have benefited from those who have a keen sense of community. For example, I benefited greatly while I was attending college by receiving a scholarship which was funded by an individual in my community. Having a keen sense of community requires us to think about what is outside of our "own world" while realizing that there are Brothers who have needs that are different from our own. The need for this type of sensitivity in our community necessitates SECOND SUNDAY addressing a variety of problems and issues in the form of 'serious', 'heavy', and 'clinical' topics. For example, SECOND SUNDAY has confronted challenges like addictions, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, internalized homophobia, and spirituality and the church.

These particular issues affect Brothers in our community in a variety of ways. By becoming educated about these issues, whether we feel affected by them, enables us to be fully aware when those around us are affected; for example, being able to identify if a friend or someone else you know has a problem with an alcohol addiction instead of wrongfully thinking: "Chile, he really likes to drink"; being able to recognize and identify a situation or yourself as domestically violent - not just seeing something as a case of "they fight all the time"; being able to attend a club and as part of the planned events for that evening to have someone get on stage and take a few minutes to say "Have a good time but practice safe sex, and be sure to get tested on a regular basis -- remember, it only takes one person to infect you;" being able to recognize internalized homophobia and understand the need to have compassion and be supportive of friends who are struggling with their sexuality and are not as comfortable with it as we are, as opposed to labeling them as 'crazy' or blaming them for the feelings they have; or being aware that there are individuals who are negatively affected by the message that is being delivered by the mainstream church and unaware of the power behind knowing and believing that God loves us and supports us exactly as we are.

I have said all of this to say that efforts are underway to include in the Bylaws a list of these types of topics that will be addressed at least once a year. This measure clearly supports the idea that SECOND SUNDAY is working towards a keener sense of community in the sense that these topics are discussed in very few places outside of our organization in an environment specifically targeted to Brothers while reaching the numbers that we do. In addition, addressing these particular types of topics at least once a year makes sense because of the fact that Brothers (inclusive of the younger Brothers who are entering the local colleges and universities and are away from home for the first time) are moving here from other cities which may not have had an organization such as SECOND SUNDAY.

Fundraising and Other Activities

There is serious work that needs to be done for our organization -- particularly with the need to fill the vacant Executive Committee positions and encourage more volunteerism on the various committees. However, that does not mean that SECOND SUNDAY can not move forward with new and exciting initiatives. These will include planning new events to expand social opportunities and raise funds, presenting topics that are new and innovative, as well as expressing pride in our organization and the Brothers who have made it happen in a very special way.

The support of all members is needed above and beyond the yearly membership fee and attendance at the monthly discussion meeting. Although you may not have time or want to serve on a committee, you can still be supportive of our fundraising efforts. Please come to Club Fusion on the second Friday of each month. Also, be sure to donate items for our yard sale on Saturday, June 12th, and come out and bring friends along as well. In addition, be sure to participate in or support our Bowl-A-Thon on Friday, June 25th, by making a pledge and encouraging friends to do the same. Developing a keener sense of community involves members expanding their support of our organization.

Your input is greatly encouraged and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board to advance our organization. I am always interested in hearing your perspective and greatly encourage your input. ■

2ND READ is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of SECOND SUNDAY. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at 404.325.7321, or e-mail us at PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard s. moultrie, jr. **BABY, LIGHT MY FIRE!**

I shout "Yes!" each time I hear Lauryn Hill declare on her single, "Superstar" (from The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill): "Come on baby light my fire/Everything you drop is so tired/Music is supposed to inspire/How come we ain't getting no higher?" This statement speaks to my soul! It is a sentiment that comes to me often when I listen to much of today's music -- particularly music produced by African-American recording artists. While I've listened to disc jockeys, callers on radio shows, and friends alike who try to understand the success of Hill's debut album, I am not perplexed at all. For me, Hill's appeal lies, very simply, in her ability as a lyricist. Hill's poetic music and rap lyrics reach the broken places of my heart and spirit rarely touched by the offerings of her musical contemporaries.

For example, when Hill observes that, "What you want might make you cry/What you need might pass you by/If you don't catch it/And what you need ironically/Will turn out what you want to be/If you just let it...," I raise my hand in recognition. The sister is ministering about a revelation we both share -- and a truth which I know that others have experienced as well. Now contrast these words with those of other artists like Xscape ("You're My Little Secret") or Pressha's "Splackavellie" ("...every woman needs a man on the side/her own Splackavellie..."). Even new comer Tyrese disappoints. I can still recall the first time I listened intently to his single, "Sweet Lady." Initially I thought, "Wow, what a great song. And the brother is saying something positive!" But then, unfortunately, in the following verse Tyrese sang, "I heard you was taken/that don't have to stop you from makin'/Late night phone calls..."

Brothers, sisters, what are we accepting about who we are and what we deserve? Let's be clear: these words are not made innocuous merely by virtue of the fact that they appear in music. These words have power. They infect the minds of children, young people and adults as well. Is it any wonder that so many of us spend restless nights distressing over the frequent failure of our love relationships when we inundate our minds with these kinds of messages? Does it really surprise you that young Black men are killing each other in the name of a false sense of chivalry when the musical airwaves are polluted by brothers who regularly sing about devaluing another brother's relationship? Why are you confused when Black women commit terrible acts of violence out of the most misguided perceptions of love given the tendency of so many Black female artists to encourage"getting busy" with some other sister's man?

We -- the listening audience and buying public -- are to blame for the dissemination of this garbage by record producers. Who can blame a performing artist like R. Kelly for deciding to abort efforts at writing more

(continued on page 3)

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Associate Director, Public Relations

Timothy D. Murfree
Acting Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Contributing Writers
Kenneth A. Johnson
Roger Sneed

Graphics/Layout
Naylon Mitchell
Darrol C. De Andre

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to:

SECOND SUNDAY
Attn: 2ND READ
Post Office Box 78705
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Phone: **(770) 435-5860**
Fax: **(770) 435-1399**

SECOND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 MAY 1999

5
'BROTHAS' THEATRE NIGHT
"S L A M"
Wednesday, MAY 5, 1999 • 8:00 p.m.
14TH STREET PLAYHOUSE
(404) 325-7321

9
2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting
" ? ? MYSTERY TOPIC ? ? "
Sunday, MAY 9, 1999 • 6:30 PM
LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

14
B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY & 40-PLUS
2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSION
Friday, MAY 14, 1999 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

18
SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB
"PARADISE" by Toni Morrison
Tuesday, MAY 18, 1999 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

22
SECOND SUNDAY FILM SCREENING
Saturday, MAY 22, 1999 • 6:00 p.m.
G.S.U. STUDENT CENTER BLDG.
2nd Floor - Capital Suite
(404) 325-7321

kenneth a. johnson YES, ANOTHER ELECTIONS ARTICLE

I didn't think I'd be writing another article. At this point in the year, I thought 2nd Sunday's officer positions would be filled. I held on to the hope that the campaigning, one-on-one discussions and previous articles would have been enough to get the job done. I was proven wrong. Almost two months after our officer elections, we're still looking at officer vacancies. Our secretary, elected at the March general membership meeting, has bravely stepped in to serve as Acting Chair in the absence of any other elected officers. Our outgoing treasurer has gallantly volunteered to continue maintaining the books for a short period of time. Our Board has pulled together to continue the business of SECOND SUNDAY without the benefit of a permanent leader to maintain accountability and steer the course. Our Elections Committee and others continue to beat the bushes and gently twist arms in hopes of finding officer candidates. So, much is going on outside of one Sunday a month to assure the viability and longevity of this organization. Now, I must turn to you and ask: ***What are you doing?***

This isn't the first time I've been in this position. I've recruited for many volunteer organizations over the years, yet I still don't know the magic formula or solar alignment needed to push folks from spectators to participants. What did it take for me to jump in from the sidelines and join the parade? I know I need to feel like I'm a part of something larger and greater than I am. Also, I enjoy working and connecting with other gay brothers in a way that is impossible in my heterosexist professional and family lives. The payback may not seem that great. The return may not be instant or easily apparent. Volunteering can often be thankless, yet giving of yourself to build the organization, community or world of your imagination has its rewards. For me, those rewards have been a family of friends, a sense of accomplishment, and the peace of knowing that my journey will make a difference in someone else's journey. Plus, I've enjoyed more than a few laughs, tales, and tears interspersed within the hours of meetings and conversations. No, it's not a paycheck, but I've enjoyed a few fringe benefits along the way.

What are you doing, now? Are you thinking that a 2nd Sunday leadership position may offer a reward worthy of your investment of time and energy? I hope you are at least thinking of having a conversation to discuss the possibilities. Before getting into the process of submitting a written statement of intent expressing your interest in an officer position and introducing yourself to the election committee, let's just talk about it. Call me at 404-355-5739 or drop me a line at **Elections@SecondSunday.org**. Maybe we can make this the last elections article of the century. ■

BABY, LIGHT MY FIRE!, *continued from page 2...*

spiritual anthems like "I Believe I Can Fly," when so many of us would rather shake our ass to songs like "Half on a Baby" and "I Love You Like My Jeep." To be sure, sexuality is in no way a theme foreign to the Black musical landscape. Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, and Barry White -- to name a few -- all sang movingly, and often times explicitly, about love-making. But these artists did so without dehumanizing and disrespecting the subject. Hill, like other icons in the Black recording industry before her, appreciates the high esteem in which love -- of God, of self, of others, of family, and of community -- should be held. I believe that if more of our music did indeed inspire us, as Hill opines, Black men and women would experience more peace on the streets, in their workplace, in their homes, in their bedrooms, and, most importantly, in their souls. ■

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND SUNDAY

PROUD!
GIFTED!
BLACK!

FOR SAME-GENGER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
OR JOIN TODAY
CALL (404) 325-7321 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FILM SCREENING
MAY 22, 1999
6:00 PM
Film Selection to be Announced at May 2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting
FREE
G.S.U. STUDENT CENTER BLDG.
2nd Floor - Capital Suite
[On Gilmer Street, Between Courtland & Piedmont, In Downtown Atlanta (1 block north of Decatur Street)]

STACEY BLAKE, MSW, LCSW
psychotherapist
individuals • couples • family • and group therapy
404-627-7927

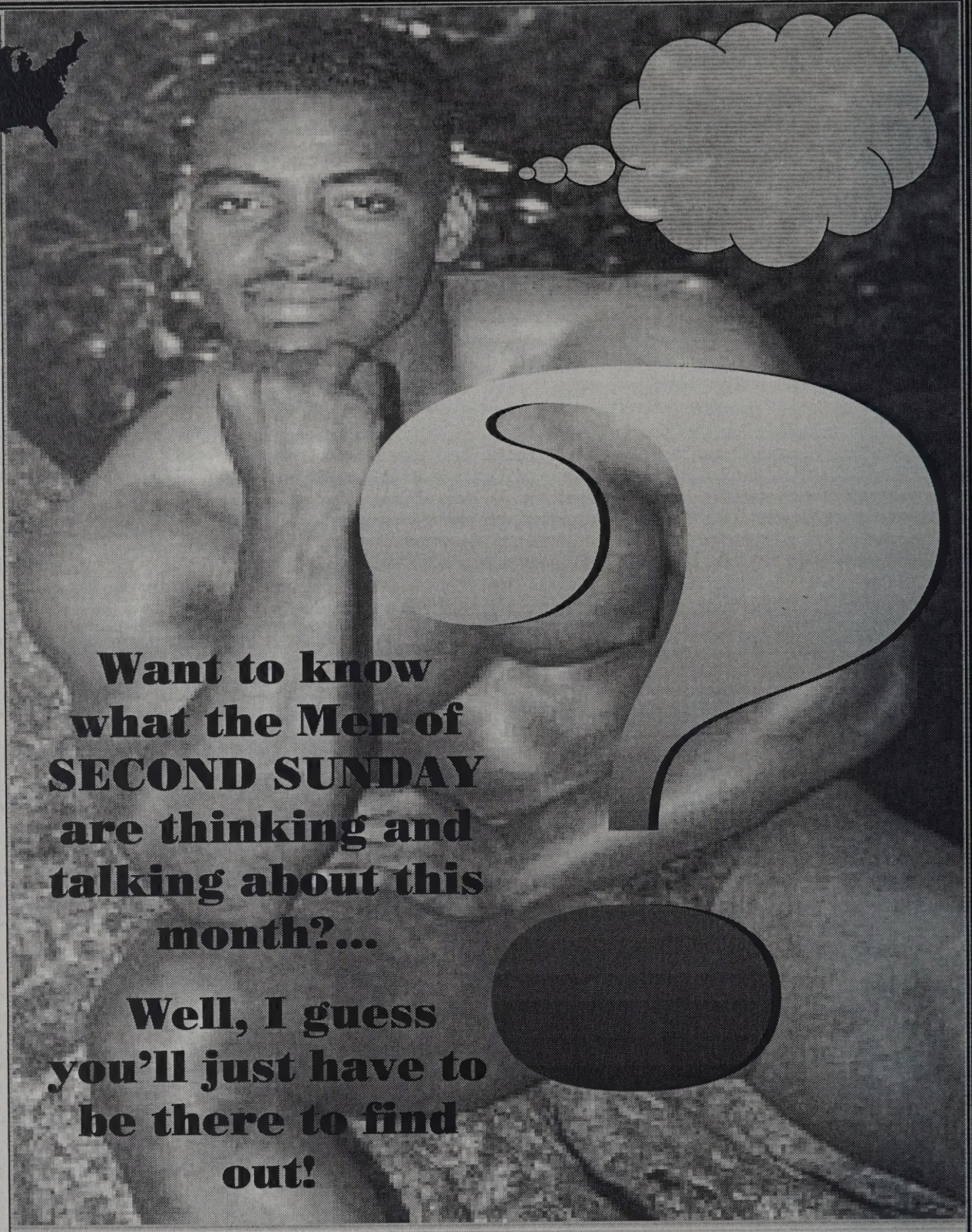
This Space is Reserved for YOU-- to Advertise your Goods or Services.
FOR INFORMATION AND RATES
CALL 770.435.5860

2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT


Want to know what the Men of SECOND SUNDAY are thinking and talking about this month?...
Well, I guess you'll just have to be there to find out!

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lambda Center

828 West Peachtree Street • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

2ND SUNDAY

sponsored by
SECOND SUNDAY

my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

- Your confidentiality will be respected
- Every 3rd Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams,
Co-Coordinator

Kevin Bynes,
Co-Coordinator

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

40-PLUS

EXPERIENCE OUR MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS FOR

SAME-GENDER-LOVING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN

Sunday, MAY 23, 1999
4:00 - 6:00 PM

This is a closed meeting for 40-PLUS Members only. The next open meeting is June 27th.

The monthly forums examine issues important to men forty years of age and older.

Membership is open to Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent over the age of thirty-five.

Meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

2ND SUNDAY

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(404) 325-7321

2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

STANDING COMMITTEES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

YOUR organization needs volunteers to assist in the successful execution of our efforts and objectives. Much of the work can be done at your convenience. Our work does not require the member to be publicly "out". The activities of the Committees requires its members to generate ideas, set objectives, develop strategies, take action, and follow through for completion. We need men who are committed and dedicated to being of service to the Committees in promoting the Organization. The Standing Committees fuel, support and implement the varied needs of SECOND SUNDAY...

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

[Terry Hooks, Director ... (404) 892-7217, Activities@SecondSunday.org]

The Activities Committee addresses the social, cultural, and educational needs of the membership, external to the monthly meeting. From Sunday Brunch, to bowling, to "Pride" activities and the annual "Where the Boyz Are" bash, they facilitate social exchange within SECOND SUNDAY.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

[Drevan Jointer, Director ... (770) 814-8160, Finance@SecondSunday.org]

The Finance Committee is responsible for working with the Treasurer to maintain the fiscal integrity of the organization. They coordinate the production and distribution of monthly statements of condition for the Board of Directors, and quarterly statements for the Membership.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

[T.W. Jewel, Director ... (404) 794-8017, Membership@SecondSunday.org]

The Membership Committee is responsible for the implementation of recruitment programs and retention of members. They disseminate information to members, and create and maintain the membership database.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

[Damal Edmonds, Director ... (770) 833-9970, Operations@SecondSunday.org]

The Operations Committee is responsible for enhancing the sense of community within the organization. Its initiatives span the spectrum of providing the food of fellowship at the end of the monthly meetings and other special events.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

[Darrol C. De Andre, Director ... (770) 435-5860, PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org]

The Public Relations Committee is responsible for promoting increased awareness and exposure of SECOND SUNDAY. The Committee publishes the newsletter, 2ND READ, and produces the monthly meeting program, and promotional materials.

TOPICS COMMITTEE

[Victor Stewart, Director ... (404) 619-6942 pgr., Topics@SecondSunday.org]

The Topics Committee is responsible for selecting and developing topics which promote the social, spiritual, cultural and educational needs of the membership for the monthly discussion meeting.

PLEASE CONTACT THE DIRECTOR AT THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS ABOVE, OR CALL (404) 325-7321 FOR MORE INFO AND TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICE!

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I am a brother who seriously desires a long-term relationship. As an individual I am very selective about whom I choose to date. I am also a very serious individual, goal-oriented and direct about my feelings. When I meet brothers I always make it clear that my energies are directed toward building a long-term relationship. I simply tell them that, "Only brothers interested in working towards a long-term relationship need inquire." Initially, the brothers that I meet do not seem troubled by my standards but after the first few dates these brothers appear to lose interest and stop returning my phone calls. I am not sure whether the brothers I date are intimidated by a brother who is serious about building a long-term relationship or if there is something about me that is driving them away. Tyrone, can you provide an explanation as to why this is happening to me?

--Standard Bearer

Hi Standard Bearer:

My response to your inquiry is a simple one. When you meet brothers intimidated by a man who is serious about values, goals, and commitment, repeat this mantra: good riddens! ■

Tyrone is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at SECOND SUNDAY, Attn.: 2ND READ, Post Office Box 78705, Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705. Or e-mail him at:

PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

2ND SUNDAY

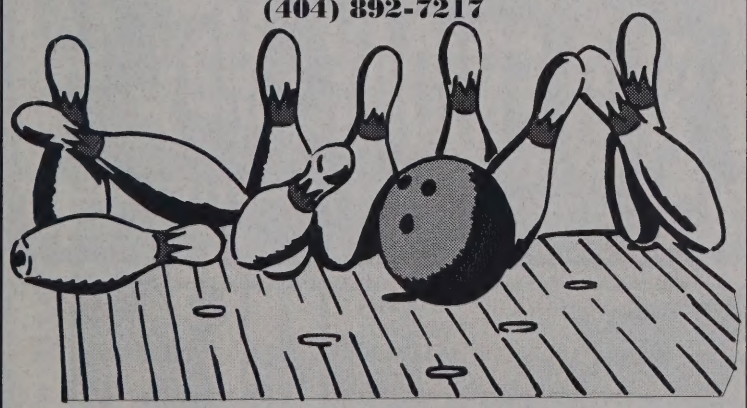
SECOND SUNDAY BOWL-A-THON

A Fundraiser and a FUN Time

Friday,
JUNE 25, 1999
7:00 P.M.

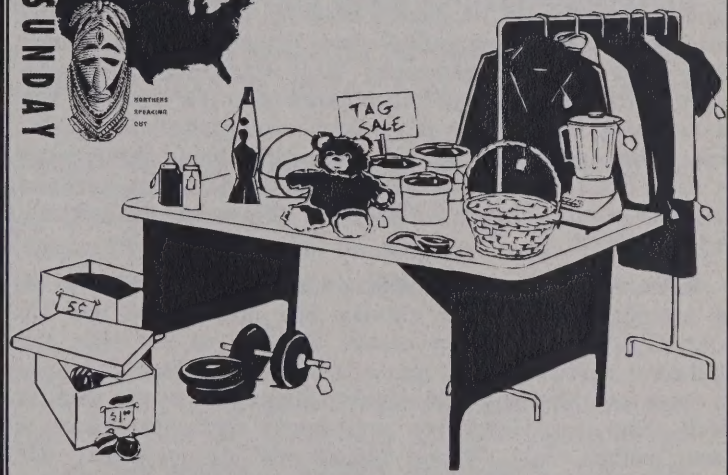
Get friends and family to sponsor you for a Game, or per Pin for you expert bowlers. Sponsor sheets will be available at the next 2ND SUNDAY discussion meeting.

For more information contact Terry Hooks at (404) 892-7217



EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
1936 Piedmont Circle
Atlanta
(404) 874-5703

2ND SUNDAY



SECOND SUNDAY YARD SALE

Saturday, June 12th

Time: 9:00 a.m. - until

Location:
Terry's House, 897 Monroe Circle
Atlanta

Note: Contact Terry Hooks (404) 892-7217 For directions, information, and to donate items and make pick-up arrangements. Participants/Donators may sign up at The May 2ND SUNDAY General Meeting

roger a. sneed ON THE SCENE

ABIDE WITH ME (E. Lynn Harris) --*A Review*

I've never been a fan of simplistic writing. When reading a book, I believe that I have to be drawn into the world of the character from the first line—and held in that world until the book ends. Reading a novel about someone's life should not feel like a chore; rather, the reading itself should feel almost as natural as thinking. That said, I must say that I found E. Lynn Harris' fifth novel and third installment of the Invisible Life trilogy, Abide With Me, a frustrating mess. I wanted to like the book, especially after the disappointing And This Too Shall Pass and the forgettable If This World Were Mine; however, the simplistic (and repetitive) prose and predictable (and uninteresting) plot twists made what could have been a good book simply mediocre.

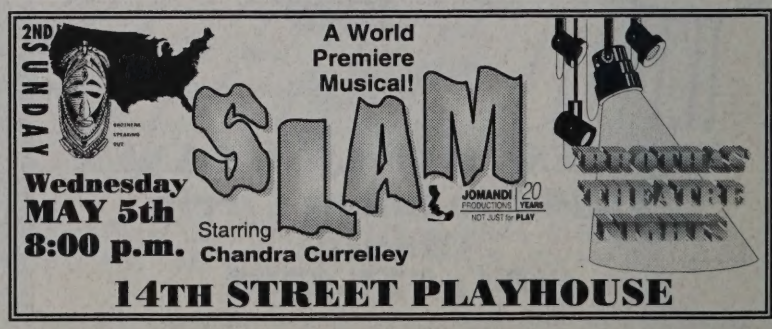
Abide With Me returns to Harris' original protagonists, Raymond Tyler (fabulously successful lawyer and now in a committed relationship with fraternity brother Trent) and Nicole Marie Springer-Stovall (fabulously beautiful, naïve, and successful Broadway actress married to Ray's best friend Jared). Also, Harris brings back perennial antagonist Basil Henderson (fabulously attractive ex-football player-turned sportscaster for ESPN2). For good measure, Harris throws in yet another antagonist in the form of Yancey Harrington Braxton. With a name like that (a disingenuous nod to the Bette Davis movie "All About Eve"), the reader is assured that melodrama in the style of "Dallas" or "Young and the Restless" is not far behind.

Raymond's story revolves around his nomination for a post on the federal bench and the ensuing FBI investigation into his background. Nicole's story centers (loosely) on her trials and tribulations stemming from Yancey's backstabbing manipulations. For some inexplicable reason, Yancey thirsts for revenge because Nicole some years earlier won some beauty crown that Yancey's absent mother could not win because she was pregnant. Or something like that. By the time Harris gets around to explaining Yancey's ridiculous behavior, it is far too little, too late. Basil's story isn't much of one. Every chapter that focuses strictly on him is spent in therapy, while he tries to figure out what is going on in his life since it was revealed that he had been molested by his uncle in If This World Were Mine. Apparently, he is still "in heat" over Raymond, and, as the plot would have it, attempts to take advantage of Raymond's marital difficulties in order to move in on Raymond. In the middle of this soup, Harris throws in so many new and old bit characters that it becomes even more confusing. Who is Yancey dating and why? We're reintroduced to Peaches, Kyle's mother (remember, Kyle is Ray's best friend who, tragically, died of AIDS in Just As I Am) and, of course, Ray's parents and brother, Kirby (who, is having a fabulous year of football at Northwestern University). The plot twists that follow all of these characters come fast and furious and not all with explanation or rationale. We the reader are supposed to swallow prima facie that Trent's, ahem, issues that threaten Ray's nomination stem from Ray being inattentive. We are also supposed to swallow Nicole's ridiculous naivete and Yancey's blind ambition. It is possible to take all of those (and more) situations with a grain of salt; however, the end of the book is the final insult. It is wrapped up in too pat a fashion. It cheats the reader—and the characters themselves—of real development.

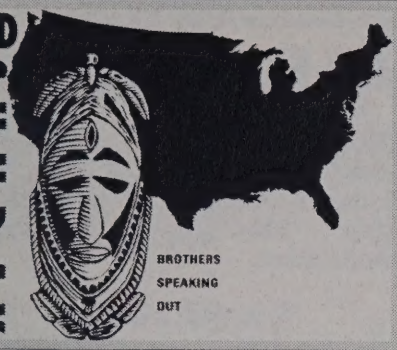
Another point of frustration comes in the form of the characters themselves. Harris seems unable (or unwilling) to write about black gay men who do not have bodies by Bally's and six-figure incomes. Most of his main characters seem too fabulous for words. The men are wonderfully handsome and seem almost Herculean in their careers. The women are all beautiful and fabulous. His focus on characters with tax brackets of not less than $100,000 comes at the expense of working class black gay people. When Harris does (briefly) introduce a gay (well, in this case, bisexual) figure who is not middle to upper-middle class, he is a caricature. The person in the form of a friend of a friend of Trent's is a jobless, opportunistic, ignorant person with no redeeming social graces and very questionable morality. The underlying classism in this book is disappointing, especially since Harris' previous works have been built on dispelling prejudices against groups.

The "growth" that the main players in this drama experience is not growth that comes from living and learning; rather, their development is spurred on by byzantine plot devices and staccato conversations—not by heartfelt personal convictions and realistic life circumstances (with the possible exception of Ray's family crisis). Do the characters really change, or are they simply shaken by turns of events in their lives? The reader is not left with any sense that the people they encountered at the beginning of the book are fundamentally different at the end. Black America is sorely in need of writers who can chronicle the lives of black gay people. With the success of his first two books, Invisible Life and Just As I Am, Harris seemed poised to be a preeminent chronicler of our lives. However, with this latest release, it seems that he has not become as much a chronicler as he has become a caricaturist. ■

2ND SUNDAY
IT'S AN B.G.M.T
OL' SKOOL
PARTY!
FuSion
"Get On Down and Party!" with BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER and the MEN of SECOND SUNDAY & 40-PLUS...
GROOVIN'... to Classic R&B and SOUL
2ND FRIDAY - May 14
10:00 PM 'TIL 1:30 AM
at CLUB FUSION
550-C AMSTERDAM AVE. • ATLANTA



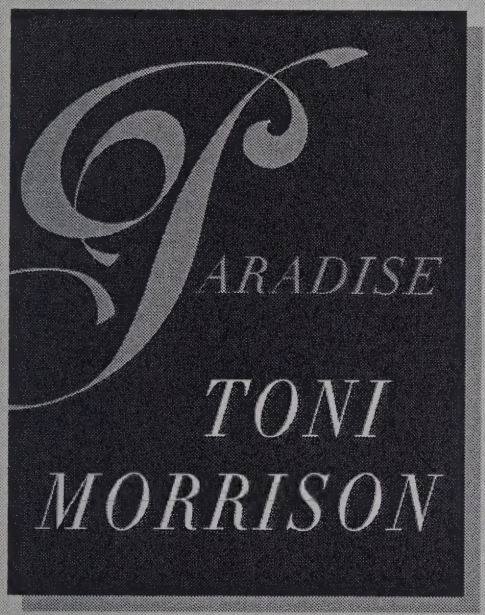
2ND SUNDAY



SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

MAY Book Pic:
"PARADISE"
by Toni Morrison
-- Plume Books $13.95 --



May 18, 1999

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY for the May Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB to discuss Toni Morrison's novel "PARADISE."

[For more information contact Terry Hooks (Director, Activities) at 404-892-7217]

"Morrison is at the top of her form, uniting the meticulous craftsmanship of early works like The Bluest Eye and Sula with the magical realism and deep moral insight of later works like Beloved... Impressive, eloquent, and powerfully imagined."

-- Baltimore Sun

"They shoot the white girl first. With the rest they can take their time." So begins this visionary work from a storyteller Newsweek hails as "the last classic American writer"; one who has been called "a major figure of our national literature" (New York Review of Books); and simply, "the best writer in America" (John Leonard). Toni Morrison's first novel since she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, Paradise opens with a horrifying scene of mass violence and chronicles its genesis in an all-black small town in rural Oklahoma. Founded by the descendants of freed slaves and survivors in exodus from a hostile world, the patriarchal community of Ruby is built on righteousness, rigidly enforced moral law, and fear. But seventeen miles away, another group of exiles has gathered in a promised land of their own. And it is upon these women in flight from death and despair that nine male citizens of Ruby will lay their pain, their terror, and their murderous rage.

In prose that soars with the rhythms, grandeur, and tragic arc of an epic poem, Toni Morrison challenges our most fiercely held beliefs as she weaves folklore and history, memory and myth into an unforgettable meditation on race, religion, gender, and a far-off past that is ever present.

This Month's Book Pic Available at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN
OUTWRITE
BOOKSTORE & COFFEEHOUSE

Supporting You Daily.

OUTWRITE
BOOKSTORE & COFFEEHOUSE
991 Piedmont Avenue @ 10th Street
Midtown/ Atlanta
(404) 607-0082

Books. Videos. CDs.
Magazines. Cards. Gifts.
Coffee. Beverages.
Sandwiches. Desserts.

•• Book Signing ••
E. Lynn Harris
"ABIDE WITH ME"
(Ballantine Books, $24.95)
Wednesday, May 5th
8:00 PM

May COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Wednesday, 5/05/99

8:00 p.m. SLAM! A world premier musical. Join the Men of SECOND SUNDAY for 'Brothas' Theatre Night at 14th Street Playhouse.

Sunday,5/09/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "?? MYSTERY ??". SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Friday, 5/14/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ Club FUSIONS. 'Get On Down and Party' to classic R&B and Soul with the Men of SECOND SUNDAY, 40-PLUS and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) at Club Fusion, located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Sunday, 5/16/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Tuesday, 5/18/99

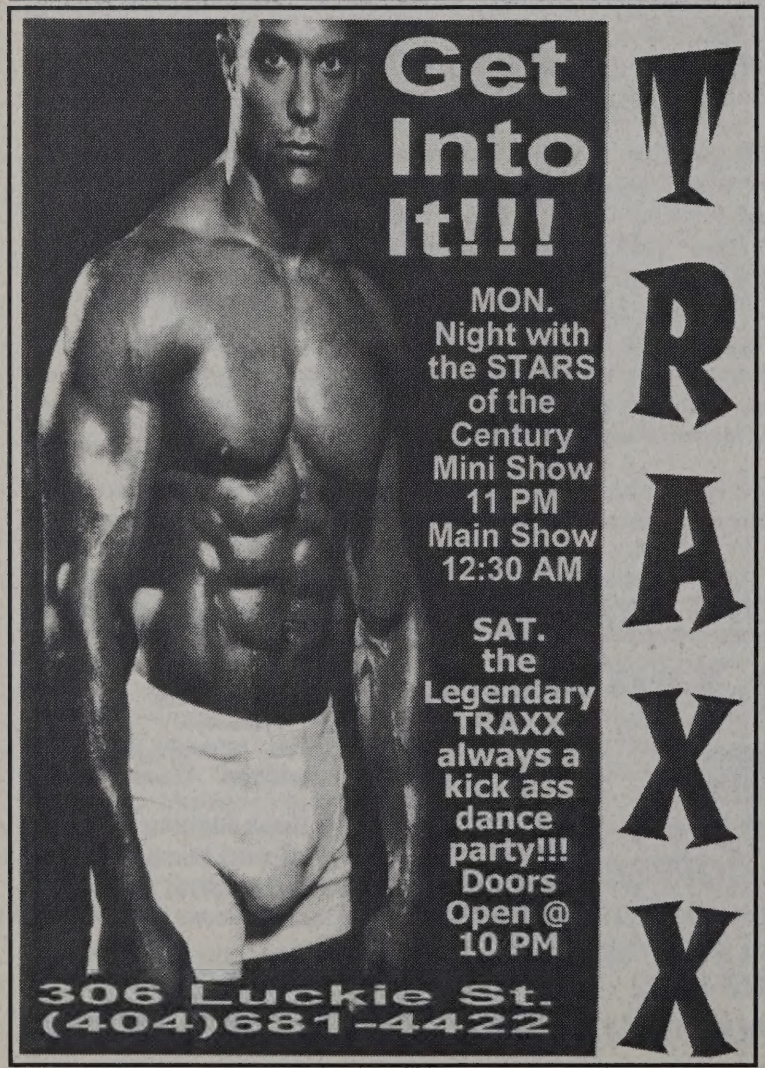
7:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB Meeting. Discussing Toni Morrison's novel *"PARADISE"* at OutWrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for more information.

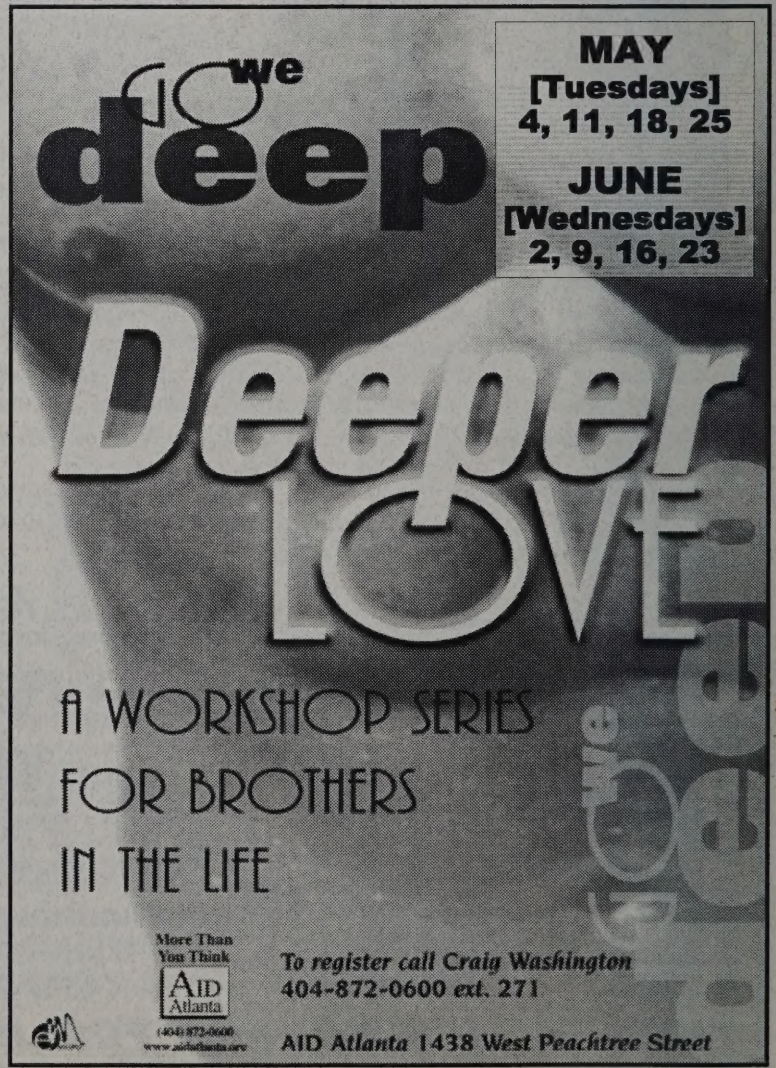
Saturday, 5/22/99

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY hosts 'Brothas On Film': A Film Screening and Discussion at G.S.U. Student Center Bldg., 2nd Floor - Capital Suite, on Gilmer Street, Atlanta.

Sunday, 5/23/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; a forum for same-gender-loving Men of African Descent, thirty-five and older. Held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for information.


Get Into It!!!
MON. Night with the STARS of the Century Mini Show 11 PM Main Show 12:30 AM
SAT. the Legendary TRAXX always a kick ass dance party!!! Doors Open @ 10 PM
306 Luckie St.
(404)681-4422
TRAXX



2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SUPPLEMENT

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

August 1999
Vol. 3
No. 5S

FREE LOCALLY

SECOND SUNDAY • Post Office Box 78705 • Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705 • (404) 325-7321
[URL] http://www.SecondSunday.org • [E-MAIL] PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

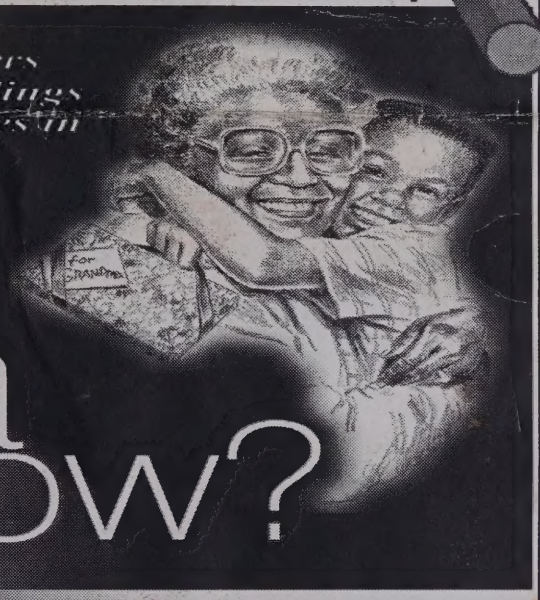
2ND SUNDAY

DISCUSSION MEETING

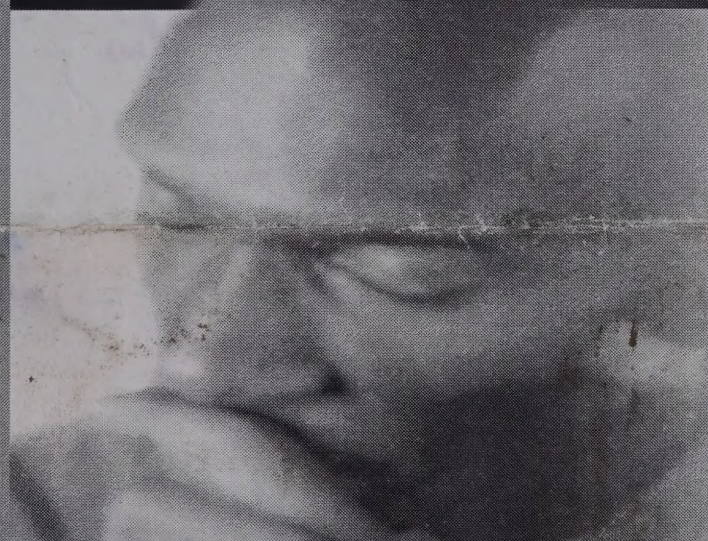
FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

[BE ADVISED: THERE WILL BE NON-GAY PARTICIPANTS ON THE PANEL FOR THIS DISCUSSION]

Join the panel of Gay Brothers along with their Parents & Siblings to discuss and share experiences in "Coming Out to Family"



does your mama know?



- Did you always know your son or brother was Gay?
- Have you honestly accepted your son or brother's choice of sexuality?
- If you assumed your relative was gay how much was based on stereotype?
- Did you feel coming out was a disappointment to your parents?

LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 1999
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Lambda Center
828 West Peachtree Street • Atlanta, GA

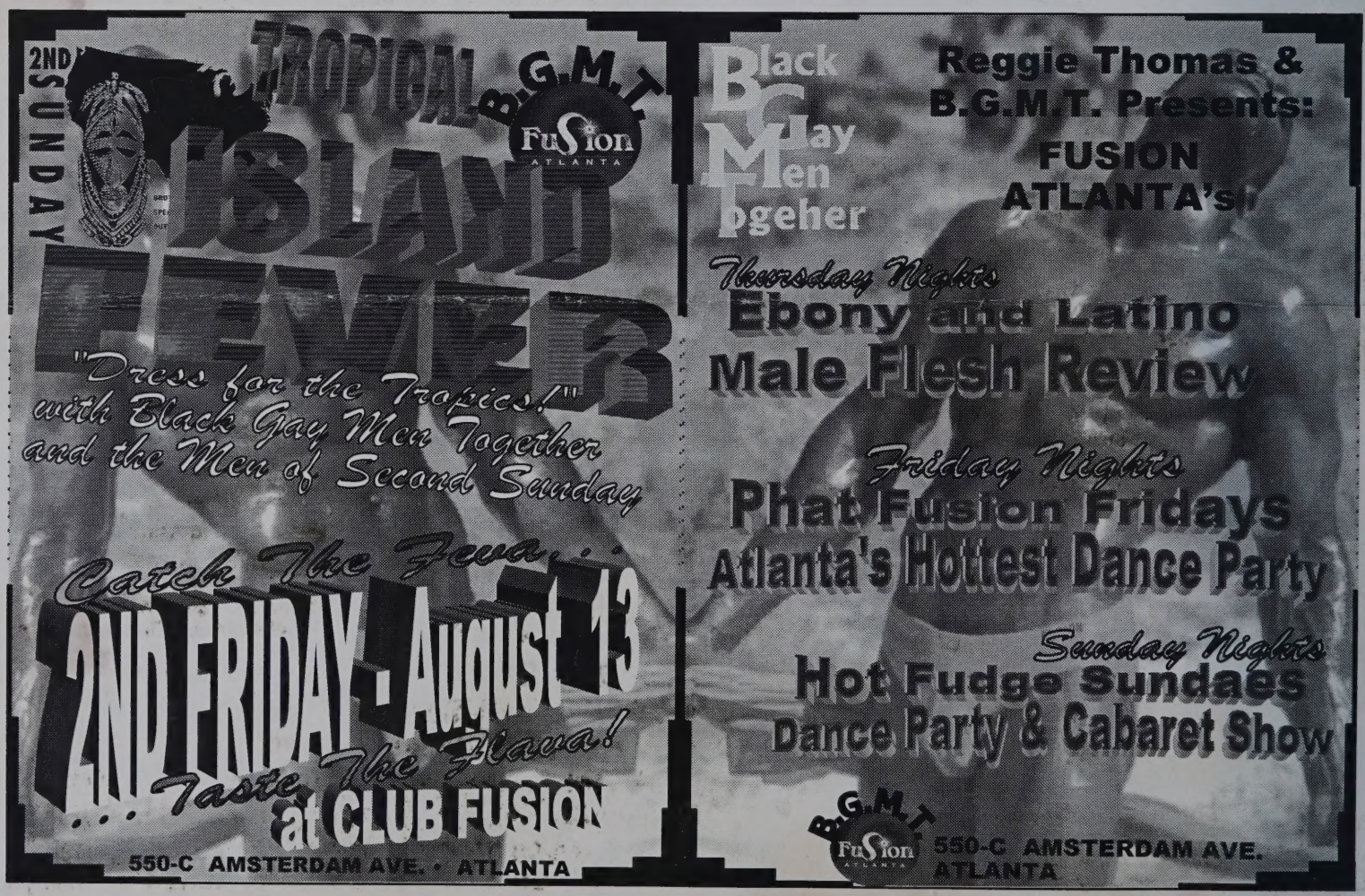
Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE - Non-Members $3.00

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND SUNDAY MEMBERS RATIFY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENTS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, July 26, 1999

ATLANTA, Georgia /PRCommuniqué/-- On Sunday, July 25, 1999 at 7:15 p.m., the members of SECOND SUNDAY -- a support organization for same-gender-loving men of African descent -- held their quarterly meeting at the Atlanta Lambda Center. At this meeting, the members of SECOND SUNDAY ratified the Executive Committee Officer appointees previously voted on by the Board of Directors on July 17th. The members approved the selections of Richard S. Moultrie, Jr. as Chair, Edwin Maurice Cook as Vice-Chair, and W. Troy Council as Treasurer. Timothy D. Murfree, the former Acting Chair for the organization, continues to serve in his elected role as Secretary. The appointment of these new officers took effect immediately. All of the officers will serve through March 31, 2000. Please join us at our regularly scheduled monthly discussion meeting on Sunday, August 8th to meet our new administration and to discuss with them their plans for the organization.



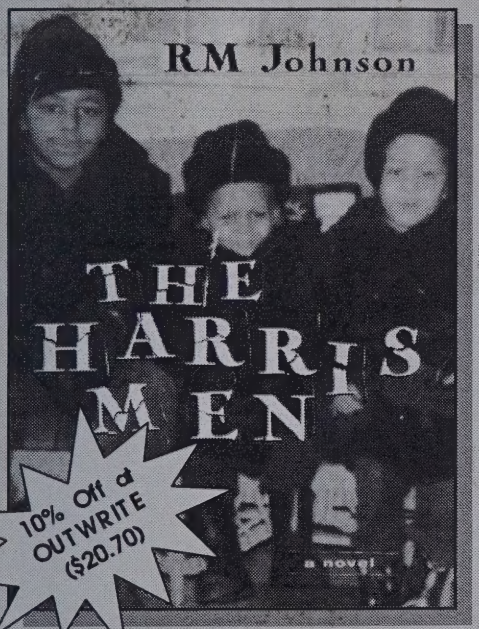
2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST Book Pic:
"THE HARRIS MEN"
by R. M. Johnson
--Simon&Schuster $23.00--



10% Off at OUTWRITE ($20.70)

August 19, 1999
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

STARBUCKS Coffee House
867 Peachtree Street (at 7th Street), Atlanta

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY for the August Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB to discuss R. M. Johnson's novel "The Harris Men."

[For more information contact Terry Hooks (Director, Activities) at 404-892-7217]

He took slow steps to the building, feeling as though he was being marched, blindfolded, to his place in front of a firing squad. Payment for the debt of leaving his children to grow up without a father, without love, without the knowledge that he even cared....There was no turning back at this point....He would handle the fear that he'd been escaping for twenty years, now.

From RM Johnson, a breathtaking new talent in American fiction, comes *The Harris Men,* the powerful, stirring portrait of one father and the three sons he walked out on years ago. Fifty-five-year-old Julius Harris has one year to live after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. Though devastated, he has known there would be some form of penalty to pay for leaving his wife and three sons twenty years ago. Since that time, he has made no form of contact with them. But now he has made a promise to himself: find his sons, reconcile with them, and make his family whole once more before he takes his last breath.

But there will be difficulties... **Marcus,** the middle son, hates even the memory of his father and wrestles with fears of abandonment that prevent him from committing to the one woman who has turned his life around. **Caleb,** the youngest son, couldn't care less about his father because he is too busy struggling to support his son, prove himself to his girlfriend, and make his way in a world that seems relentless in trying to keep him out. And then there's **Austin,** the eldest son, who adores his father's memory and seems to be taking after him, abandoning his own wife and children as his father did twenty years before.

Drawing inspiration from experiences familiar to him, RM Johnson explores the world of the Harris men -- and the ever-growing problem of absentee fathers -- with arresting and deeply moving compassion. As his characters grapple with the fears that haunt them and the choices that lie before them, Johnson skillfully gets to the heart of a complex, real-life issue that will forever be the source of much debate: **what it means to be a man.**

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For more information contact: 404-325-7321

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December 1999
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No. 2

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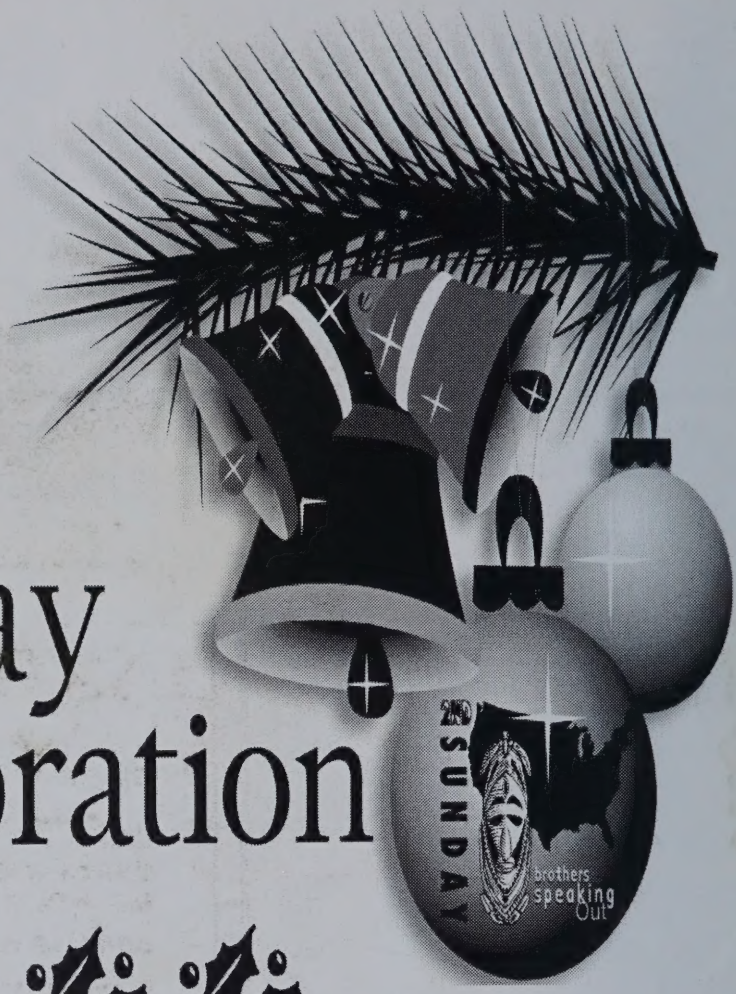
DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

2nd Sunday Holiday Celebration



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&
Let Brotherly Love Continue

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Lambda Center
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Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Chair/Editor, SECOND SUNDAY

Edwin Maurice Cook
Vice-Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Contributing Writers
Craig Washington
Damon J. Murphy
Terrence Hooks
Ken Carey
Craig Johnson
Menelik Tefera
Malik M. L. Williams
David Vaughn
J. D. Guilford
Onyx Gold
Ken Horton
Montee

Graphics/Layout
Darrol C. De Andre
Edwin Maurice Cook

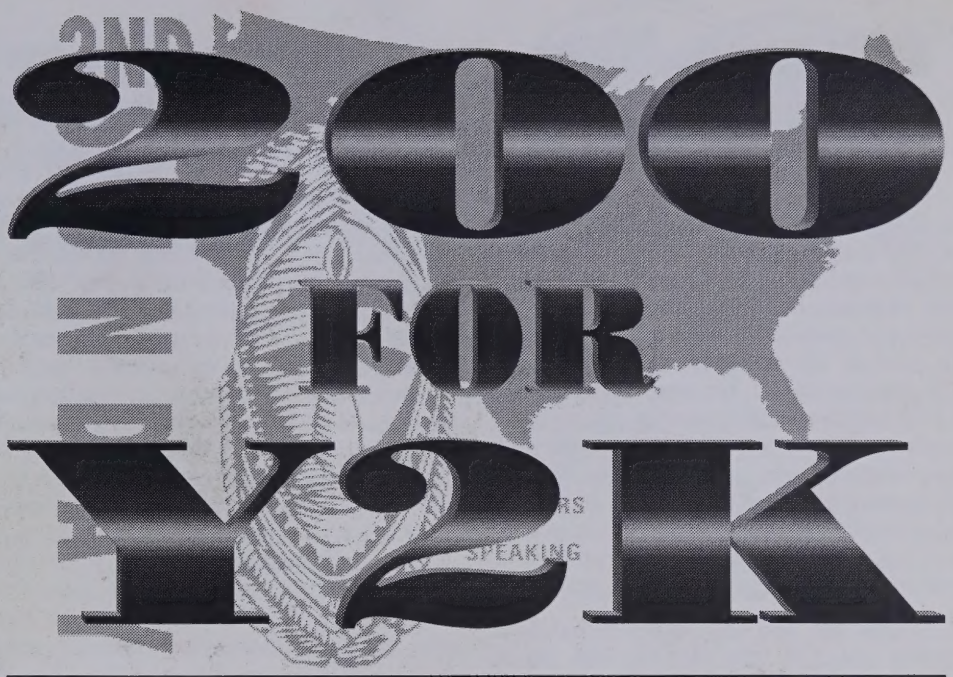
Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to:
2ND READ
c/o SECOND SUNDAY
Post Office Box 78705
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399



INSIDE *THIS ISSUE*

2 ***THE ART OF "HELLO"***
2 ***A SOJOURN IN SOUTH AFRICA***
3 ***THROWING SHADE: DO WE RESPECT EACH OTHERS RELATIONSHIP?***
4 ***SECOND SUNDAY SUPPORTS AIDS WALK ATLANTA '99***
5 ***LOST BOYS***
6 ***BECOME A MEMBER ...GET INVOLVED!***
6 ***200 FOR Y2K***
7 ***MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SECOND SUNDAY***
8 ***BUYING OR JUST RENTING?***
8 ***FORTY-PLUS: GETTING HEALTHIER, STRONGER & WISER***
9 ***NEW "KIDS" ON THE BLOCK***
9 ***I AM MY BROTHAZ' KEEPER!***
10 ***ON THE SCENE***
11 ***CALL TYRONE***
12 ***THE QUESTION OF FRIENDSHIP***

Announcements / Advertisements

*2ND READ is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of SECOND SUNDAY. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at **404.325.7321**, or e-mail us at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org***

2ND SAY

message from the CHAIR - EDITOR

richard s. moultrie, jr. THE ART OF "HELLO"

Picture this: the place is Club Fusions; the date is any given Friday night/Saturday morning; and the person arriving prior to or after midnight is you. You enter the club lobby and speak to two brothers standing just beyond the entranceway. Perhaps to your disappointment, but most probably not to your surprise, neither brother returns your greeting. They glare, briefly; examine your face, briefly; assess your fashions, briefly; and inspect your passing profile -- maybe not so briefly depending upon your frontal or rear end assets. Still, they do not utter a word in response to your friendly "hello."

If you are like me, this scenario is a familiar one. If you are not like me, I imagine that at least some acquaintance has described a similar experience to you. Whatever the case, I am making the point that brothers do not make it a habit to greet each other in public. And when they do, more often as not, the intent is to "pull up" or "hook up." It's almost as if saying "hello" has to be approached like an art form -- that is, it seems that it is critical that one cultivate a sixth sense for determining to whom to speak in order to avoid embarrassment or rude behavior. Isn't it sad that we do not appear to appreciate the value of exchanging a "hello" solely for the sake of doing so? Is it really necessary that we experience physical attraction for a brother before we opt to offer a kind greeting to him? Many of us attend church services consistently and listen to sermons extolling the importance of the Golden Rule. We congregate in kitchens at parties bemoaning the difficulties in finding and keeping a good man. Then we coldly look the other way when a brother whom we do not know extends an introductory smile. Again, must saying "hello" be undertaken like an art form in which the perceived quality of the eyes, nose and mouth that accompanies the gesture determines whether the salutation deserves an acknowledgment?

Some folk even bounce up into 2ND SUNDAY meetings to intellectualize about spirituality and self-love, but cannot be prevailed upon to engage an unfamiliar brother in casual conversation. How often have you walked into the discussion room and been struck by the number of men who sit only a chair apart but, rather than chat quietly, choose to look down at wrist watches, rearrange silver jewelry or stare ahead in silence? With so much occurring in our lives to create disharmony -- AIDS, dead end jobs, unhealthy relationships -- how can we miss the opportunity to provide a brother with a positive or polite word? You do not know what the brother is going through who enters behind you at a night club, takes the chair beside you at a 2ND SUNDAY meeting or hands you a cocktail at a house party. The pleasure of your "hello," without subterfuge or an ulterior motive, may make all the difference.

Now, it is true, when you stop to think about it, that the act of extending a "hello" to someone does not produce art; but it is an act that has the potential to represent beauty for the person who receives it. So do me a favor. When you next arrive for a 2ND SUNDAY meeting, or after taking your seat in the meeting room, turn to someone and say, "Hey brother, how are you?" "I'm glad you could make it tonight." "How was your week?" This courtesy, though uncomfortable for, or seemingly insignificant or even silly to you, may have just saved that brother's life. ■

the COMMUNITY BRIDGE

craig washington A SOJOURN IN SOUTH AFRICA

2ND BRIDGE

I was recently blessed with the opportunity to visit South Africa, a nation that has undergone some incredible changes and challenges. I learned so much during my 2-week stay, much of which has not even really sunken in. The deeper "life lessons" are much like time-release capsules that are absorbed more slowly and more fully, at their own pace. I hope to grow professionally and personally from this slow learning and I pray it will enrich my life and work.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association held its 19th World Conference from September 18th - 25th in Johannesburg, South Africa. I attended the conference as Co-Director of Southerners On New Ground and was accompanied by Pam McMichael, our Co-Director in Louisville, Kentucky and board member Termain Kyles. Founded by Black and White southern lesbians, Southerners On New Ground (SONG) builds movement for progressive social change across the South by developing models of organizing that connect race, class, gender and sexual orientation. We saw some important parallels between our work in the States and the unprecedented galvanization of gay liberation with anti-apartheid, anti-sexist and pro-labor movements in South Africa. The I.L.G.A. Conference provided a vehicle through which we could connect with LGBT organizers from Africa and all over the world.

The Pre-Conference Institute on Africa featured reports about the legal status of homosexuality and other laws pertaining to LGBT rights; human rights issues; and building LGBT alliances. The Women's Institute allowed lesbians around the world to share their major needs, challenges and strategies in their regions. Pam connected with a number of sisters of all colors in this and other women spaces. Throughout the course of the week some of the standout workshops were "Political Economy of HIV/AIDS in Africa"; "LGBT Youth"; and "Racism, Sexism and Homophobia in South Africa". Evening events included several films about LGBT lives and cultures, staged storytelling and the Miss GLOW Vaal beauty pageant.

We held meetings with several, mostly Black LGBT organizers and activists. There was Pastor Nokuthula from Hope and Unity MCC who ministers to a mostly young congregation in Hillboro, a Black neighborhood that recalls Harlem. I was stilled by the soft voice of this Black lesbian warrior who once tried to self-convert to heterosexuality in order to conform. GLOW (Gays and Lesbians of Witwatersrand) a mostly male volunteer organization (founded by Simon Nkoli) manages to provide youth outreach, HIV/AIDS counseling and outreach in the townships with a meager budget and a lot of heart. The prominent National Coalition on Gay & Lesbian Equality, a co-gender, Black-led political NGO (non-governmental organization), helped coordinate the integration of anti-racist and anti-homophobia work throughout the country. There is so much that we can learn from these African freedom fighters. You don't have to be an activist to appreciate their work. If you care about ending any identity oppression here then you should know about what is happening there.

The moments that resonated most were those that no workshop could create. Like the demonstration protesting the high-cost of AIDS drugs where one speaker had to delay his speech for the spontaneous outburst of glorious singing from youth organizers. Or the Soweto tour guide recalling how snipers occasionally fired at Winnie Mandela in her home as casually unpredictable as a rain

continued on page 3...

a LETTER *to the editor*

2ND REPLY

damon j. murphy THROWING SHADE: DO WE RESPECT EACH OTHERS RELATIONSHIPS?

As we know being a Black gay man is no easy chore in our society and finding someone to have a positive intimate relationship with can be an even bigger chore. So what happens when we see our friends finding that significant other? Do we help promote this new relationship in our friend's life or do we talk about the shortcomings of the new love interest and/or feel jealous that we haven't found that person yet. Do we doubt the relationship will last or secretively wish its demise or do we, out of surprise, buy the new couple free movie passes or a gift certificate at a restaurant? The question becomes what can we do to nurture Black gay male relationships? We know that society places strong taboos on male-to-male relationships, especially those involving African-American males. However, perhaps the most destructive force in our lives is the force we bring onto ourselves. I am issuing a call for Black gay men to think on a community-wide basis about how we view our intimate relationships. Many men I have come across this year seem to think that there is no happiness with another man. They say there is too much confusion in relationships between men. The response I tend to get is that "I'm just trying to get my freak on and stay single," or "I think eventually I'll marry a woman." One can argue that many brothers need to work on their own feelings of internalized homophobia, but even still, when two Black males enter into a relationship, our community needs to step to the plate in making it a nurturing environment for those relationships to thrive.

"Why is this not happening as widely as it should in our community?" one might ask. There are a few reasons. First, many Black gay men have to work on internalized homophobia issues. Many have blocked themselves from seeing positive Black gay male relationships. We are not taught by our parents or society to date men. Thus many of us learn as we go along in life what to do, often with negative information in our minds. We do not see many, if any, positive images of ourselves reflected in television, movies, theater, music, and in our own neighborhoods. Many of us pull the negatives inside our consciousness and claim them for ourselves. For example, we accept the notion that our relationships with each other can't work! We often spread this negativity to people around us, sometimes without being conscious of it.

Second, we have issues around jealousy. Of course, this is a human trait. This is in no way limited to gay men of color, but the way we react to this type of feeling is an individual choice. If we see our friend or even an acquaintance involved with someone that we like for ourselves, it is not proper to curse their relationship or to sabotage it by creating problems. As a community, we need to learn to move past our needs and wish couples well. Support them by surprising them with a gift, sending them a card to express your happiness for them, or just say something pleasant that will help promote positivity between them. Of course, we have no control over the details of their relationship; but wouldn't you appreciate the support of a friend and the (gay Black) community if you were experiencing something positive with a special someone? This is what we need to move toward. We cannot change what the African-American community or white gay community thinks of us; but we can change the way we think of ourselves. We cannot expect others to respect our relationships until we have done that for ourselves.

Additionally, we may not like the choice our friends make. This is not to suggest that we should be happy for brothers involved in relationships where they are abused physically, mentally or sexually. This calls for a different type of nurturing and support from the community. However, what I mean here is that if you don't like the choice a person makes, this should not mean that you do not support a positive relationship between a brother and his partner. Again, this requires that we move beyond our personal biases and wish the couple well. We often underestimate the power we have to make a conscious choice to help each other and in turn help ourselves become a stronger people. As we enter the the millennium, it is up to Black gay men today to pave a stronger path for those people who will walk in our shoes well into the twenty-first century. ■

A SOJOURN IN SOUTH AFRICA, *continued from page 2...*

shower. Or the tear-welling image of Simon Nkoli's* name unfurling from a rooftop summoning applause from the South Africa Gay Pride marchers. Then there was the nightlife. Brothers from South Africa, Cape Town, and Zimbabwe were more than happy to show Termain and I the variety of nocturnal gay activity. We hit some hot mixed (gay and straight) clubs that offered live and boxed music (South African house music worked me -- no doubt!!). I visited a jazz club where men (not particularly gay) drink and listen to jukebox jazz. In the clubs, brothers were extra friendly especially when they clocked our American accents. Some of this play is due no doubt to USA's immense socioeconomic clout worldwide. Not to mention that the currency exchange favors the American buck, 6 Rand to every 1 Dollar. I was never so conscious of my American nationality, particularly in terms of privilege and status. I had to really check myself throughout my stay. Like the Sweet Honey In The Rock song, I asked myself "Are My Hands Clean?"

In a card filled with love and affection, I was advised to reflect on the true purpose behind my trip. Knowing me rather well, my "counsel" encouraged me to be still and the answers would come. I am learning the value of patience. Without seeking, I have already found a renewed, restored, recharged commitment to individual and universal liberation. ■

* Simon Nkoli was Africa's most beloved AIDS activist and a leading organizer and political prisoner. Simon displayed tremendous courage and vision throughout a life cut much too short by HIV disease.

Craig Washington is Co-Director of SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND and a member of SECOND SUNDAY; he may be contacted at 404-249-8788 or you may email him at ***song4cw@aol.com***

SONG
SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND
Craig Washington
Co-Director
1447 Peachtree Street
Suite 1004
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 249-8788
fax (404) 249-1451
SONG4CW@aol.com

2ND ACT

a thanks from the DIRECTOR, ACTIVITIES

terrence hooks SECOND SUNDAY SUPPORTS AIDS WALK ATLANTA '99

The SECOND SUNDAY Activities Committee's AIDS WALK team says "thanks" to all of the brothers and sisters that helped support AIDS WALK Atlanta '99. For the past four years SECOND SUNDAY has joined together with thousands of people, despite our differences in age, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation, to walk for HIV and AIDS. The Activities Committee recognizes AIDS WALK Atlanta as the southeast's largest AIDS fundraiser. AIDS WALK Atlanta benefits AID Atlanta's programs for AIDS care, education and advocacy. The organization also helps to fund fourteen other AIDS prevention and service providers in the greater Atlanta area.

On the day of the AIDS walk SECOND SUNDAY's team of walkers arrived ready and anxious to support AIDS WALK Atlanta. This year our team walkers turned out in significantly larger numbers than the previous year. We rallied together, fellowshipped with other supporters, took time to meet first time walkers and to reacquaint ourselves with familiar faces. The walk began full of enthusiasm and high energy. I encourage all of the readers out there unable to join us this year to consider doing so next year.

SECOND SUNDAY will continue to unify and take a stand against silence in the midst of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. This issue touches deeply within our families and communities because of brothers and sisters who are increasingly becoming infected with the virus at such alarming rates. They require our support. Therefore, we hope that you will continue to support our SECOND SUNDAY AIDS WALK team. As we approach a new millennium let us -- SECOND SUNDAY and the Community -- stand united. ■

SECOND SUNDAY TEAM

AIDS WALK ATLANTA '99

Continuing our commitment to the HIV/AIDS cause; actively supporting initiatives that provide services for HIV/AIDS prevention, education and activism. Helping to make a difference in the lives of men, women and children living with AIDS!

ken carey LOST BOYS

I am pretty sure that we all have heard the expression "It's a jungle out there!" Yes! It is a jungle out here. We all have deadlines to meet. Oh and don't forget that there are meetings to attend where minutes are kept but the hours lost. How many times have you rushed to get on the highway to only crawl one mile in twenty minutes? This is the senseless carnage that continues to grip our fair city. If your button has not been pushed it will soon. Here's one escape.

Earlier this month, we put together a hiking trip for the brothers of SECOND SUNDAY. When I thought about putting together the outing, I expected everything from "Yo, hiking! Well if I can't plug my Warren G's 2001 CD in something I can't go", or "I have to run to the Mall on Saturday", or "I've never been and anyway that's not me". Really, these are some of the excuses I prepared myself to hear. But instead of excuses, I got nothing but absence. Me bitter, of course not!

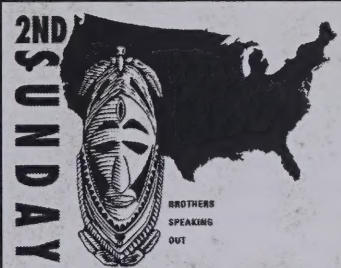
Ok, truthfully, the day of the trip I was very discouraged. From a sheet full of brothers who said they would come, only two showed up. Only two! Three additional brothers, well, 2 brothers and one brother's lover came along for the hike as well. It was six of us in total. We waited in the parking lot of the Lambda Center for about an hour to allow those who signed-up to arrive. I thought, "they'll be here, they're just running late." After an hour, the consensus of the group was to push on. I had a sense that this was something new and fun for the brothers who showed up. Everybody was getting into the groove of the trip. There was a sense of bonding that I had not felt in a long time. I promised a hiking trip and I was going to deliver.

Brothers, let me tell you this hiking trip was "Off da hook." Imagine this: the weather was a balmy 78 degrees; the sun was beaming down several extra degrees of warmth, begging us to strip off our layered J-Crew Mountain looks; and, just when we thought we would burn up from the walk and the heat, an occasional breeze whisked across Lake Allatoona cooling us off from the sweaty hike. One mile turned into six, and then eight. At one point, we were lost. We wondered whether we should turn around and go the short distance back to the camp or continue on trekking into the unknown? We plunged ahead!

Everybody was pulling for everybody. A tree had fallen over a stream and the only way to cross was over the tree. I first hesitated, but when the group assured me that I could do it not even a brother as fine as Taye Diggs could have stopped me. (Well, he could stop me for 3 minutes!) We climbed huge rock formations and chased the grazing deer. We walked on the trail until somebody said, "Lets go here" and then everybody followed, not knowing where this new mini adventure would lead.

We setup camp at a ravine next to a stream with a small stone beach. It was a beautiful-breath-taking scene. The team of Spencer and Palmer got "2 snaps-up" for what we initially thought was over packing. They brought a blanket for sitting and for lunch they served turkey on croissants, with sesame chicken wings for hors d'oeuvres, bran muffins, and Ardens Garden juices -- I mean it was over the top! We sampled their delights, and offered our own. It was really a Thanksgiving! Ok, ok, you get the picture. We really enjoyed each other and had lots of fun. And just like all people of color, after the meal, we took a nap. We all piled onto the lone blanket and cuddled and spooned like bear cubs in a den tucked away for a long winter's nap! You should see the pictures (smile)!

The hike was a success! The lack of participants made for a level of intimacy felt throughout the group that probably would not have existed otherwise. We were able to stop, look and feel nature bursting with its brilliant colors -- red, brown, green and yellow. And don't forget the other colors, black and white. When I think about our nap and the bodies, some Black and one white, intertwined on that blanket, I laugh out loud. It was a crazy scene. We were so free and open with one another. Although some of us were meeting for the first time, it was as if our spirits had met many years before. I felt warm. I felt peace knowing that I was able to be a part of something so expressive. ■

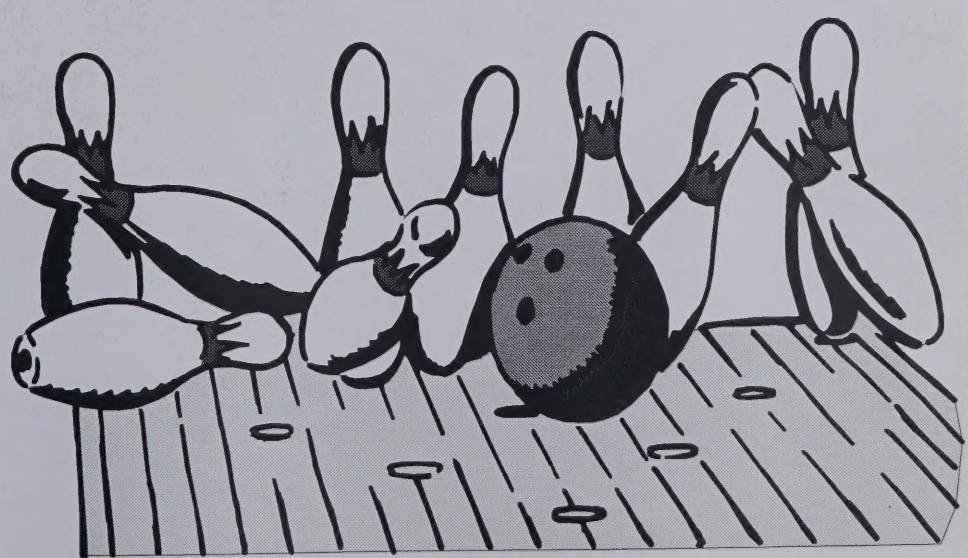


SECOND SUNDAY

BROTHAS BOWLING NIGHT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1999
11:00 P.M.

For more information contact: Terry Hooks at (404) 892-7217



EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
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2ND SHIP

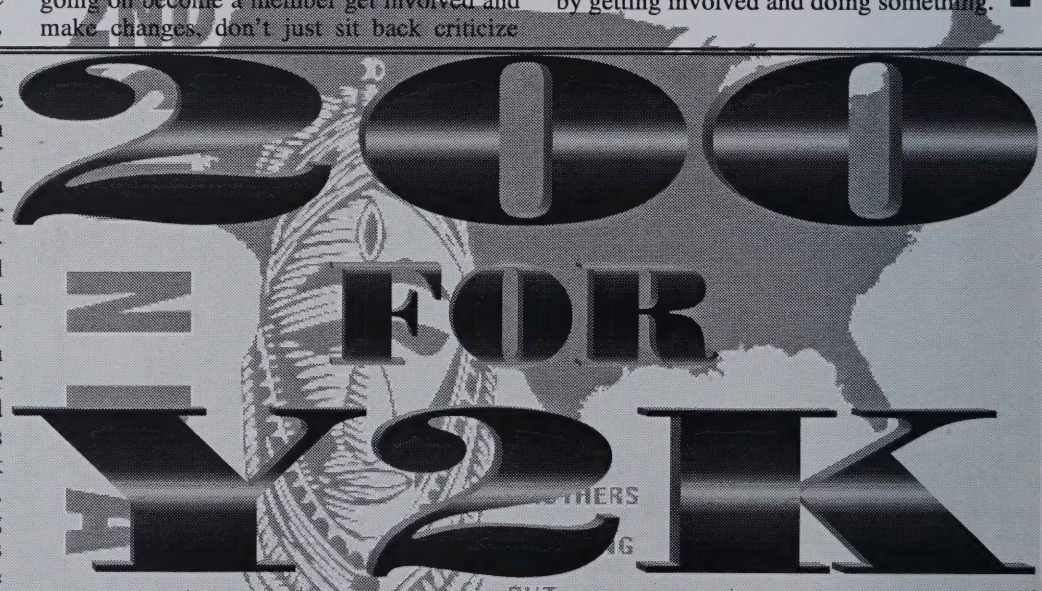
from the DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP

craig johnson BECOME A MEMBER ...GET INVOLVED

My brothers of SECOND SUNDAY and my brothers in the life, there is a problem in our community that if not solved now there may be little hope of ever solving it in the future. The problem, lack of involvement from our bothers in the community and in SECOND SUNDAY as an organization. We are approaching our seventh year of existence but to date our membership roll is less than fifty brothers and for an organization that has been around for that length of time our numbers should be much higher. A lot of you may not know that we are the largest attended and most well known organization of it's kind, and the only one of it's kind in the southeast. Did you know that SECOND SUNDAY is known and respected nationwide and has been the model used by other groups formed in other cities around the nation. We just didn't get that way overnight, it took the work of a lot of dedicated men to get to where we are today. Men who felt that service to our community was important and necessary. Before, when there was no organization for same gender loving Black men there was no place for brothers in the life to meet and greet outside of the clubs and house parties. There was no place for us to go and discuss issues that we identified with, but because of SECOND SUNDAY we now have that safe environment where brothers of different socioeconomic, religious, and educational backgrounds can meet and exchange ideas.

My brothers for us to stay in existence and keep doing the work needed to be done in our community we need you. We need you to become a member and get involved. Involvement is the key to our existence because without you there is no SECOND SUNDAY. Your voice and ideas are needed and must be heard. If you are a brother who feels that SECOND SUNDAY is not meeting a particular need tell us what that need is, only by voicing that need and getting involved will we be able to meet that need. SECOND SUNDAY has had its share of criticism, some deserved but most by brothers who aren't involved in the organization. By becoming a member and getting involved you will have first hand knowledge of all of what goes on inside SECOND SUNDAY. A lot of brothers always ask what am I getting for my membership fee besides a membership card and refreshments and to be honest the only answer I can give them now is a space to discuss and exchange ideas with other Black same gender loving men. Also, I tell them that their money is supporting an organization for them by them. My brothers this is your opportunity to have a voice in what goes on in the Black same gender loving community. If you don't like what's going on become a member get involved and make changes, don't just sit back criticize and do nothing.

SECOND SUNDAY is an organization for brothers by brothers that has much to offer you and you have much to offer us. We need brothers with experience in all fields for our committees. We need brothers that can take charge when needed and do what may be asked of them to do for the benefit of the organization. What SECOND SUNDAY needs are brothers who want to be involved not for personal hidden agendas but to see the organization thrive for the betterment of our community. Be a brother that takes action or that sees action is taken, for if you are not part of the solution then you're part of the problem. The lack of involvement not just in SECOND SUNDAY but in our community in general is one that must be rectified. We as Black same gender loving men can no longer sit back and think that someone else is going to do for our community what we need to do for our community. There's a saying that everything starts at home, well think about SECOND SUNDAY as your home and start helping us help our community by becoming a member. Being a member of SECOND SUNDAY does have its responsibilities, one to yourself and to your community; take pride that we are doing for ourselves and that the brothers after us have something they can pass on to the generation after them. Become a member by getting involved and doing something. ■



Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY, in the past few months you have seen notices in your 2ND READ and 2ND SUNDAY programs advertising 200 for Y2K. This is a membership drive program for the year 2000. It is our goal that in the new millenium we increase our membership to an all time high of 200 registered members. In 1998 SECOND SUNDAY had a membership of 150 members but for some reason in 1999 our rolls dropped by over 100. It is our goal to gain those 100 brothers back and add 100 more. We want to show that there is power in numbers and that Atlanta's Black same-gender-loving community is active. To do this we need you. With a strong membership of 200, SECOND SUNDAY is more likely to be awarded grants to continue programs like MY BROTHAZ KEEPER, a support group for brothers 18-24, to host special guest speakers, and to do outside workshops. Many of you come to our general meetings but are not members. My question to you is why not join? If you enjoy our monthly discussion and the socialization after the meetings, think of the fulfillment you'll get from being a member. A lot of brothers are under the misconception that being a member automatically "outs" you to the public, but that is not so! Brothers behind the scene do a lot of the work. Of course, the choice to occupy a higher profile position is available as well. We do ask that you get involved but only to the level of your comfort. 200 for Y2K is not a hard goal to reach, it just takes the willingness of many of you to step up to the plate and get involved. With more members more can be done for our community. With few members it takes a longer period of time to get that work done. SECOND SUNDAY wants to continue doing positive things for the brothers in Atlanta but for us to do so it's going to take you and brothers like you. So when you see a brother who you know is already a member ask him how you too can become one. Also, contact us by email at **Membership@SecondSunday.org** or call us at 404-325-7321. This is your organization, so become a member. ■

2ND FORUM

TOPIC *of the* MONTH

menelik tefera MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SECOND SUNDAY

It was almost four years ago when I moved from Los Angles. Within a few months of my arrival, a friend told me about a 2ND SUNDAY meeting and asked me to join him. At first I was not sure if this would be something I would be interested in attending as he did not have enough information about this group and I did not know what to expect. However, as I was curios and open-minded, I decided to attend. To my surprise, I really enjoyed myself and couldn't wait until the next meeting.

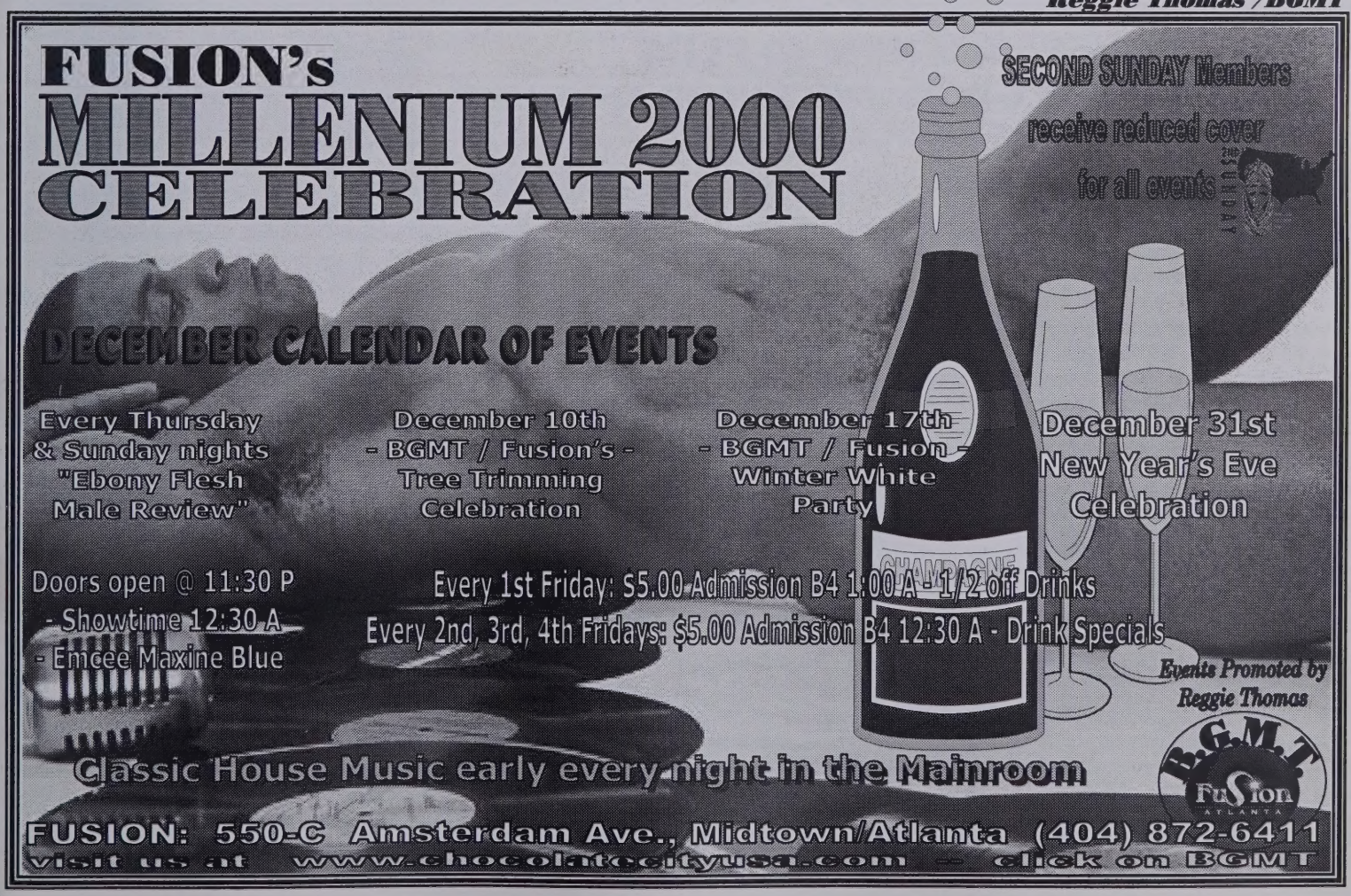
About a year and a half ago, Robert Mathis invited me to attend the Topics Committee meeting. Like others also invited, I was not sure if I wanted to attend since I believed that I might be asked to participate on the committee. As Robert was persistent, I agreed to attend. Once again I was quite impressed with the dynamics of the group; therefore, I ended up joining the Topics Committee. Six months later I was elected Associate Director to the Director, Victor Stewart. Victor and I have become very good friends due to our love and commitment to SECOND SUNDAY. Recently, I was elected Director of the Topics Committee. I know it is not going to be a simple task to fill Victor's shoes but I will do my best. Thank you Robert and Victor for your continuous support and for making me a part of this great organization.

Just the other day Ulester Douglas, the organization's advisor and a former Co-Chair, commented on how far I have came with SECOND SUNDAY. He went on to say that I appeared relaxed, as I was in my gym attire (he first saw me in my suit), and that he never thought I would get so involved. I expressed my love for SECOND SUNDAY and explained that there is a time when we need to give back to our community. I find SECOND SUNDAY to be a place where one can share knowledge and experience, a place to make friends, a place to support each other and a place to be true to one's self.

Finally, the Topics Committee and the Activities Committee will be working together to host the Holiday Celebration on December 12th. We invite you to join us for this year-end party to celebrate our brotherhood, and the friendships, and blessings we have experienced throughout the year. This will also be the perfect occasion to renew your membership or join, and volunteer your services to SECOND SUNDAY. Let us come together, letting brotherly love continue, so that SECOND SUNDAY will ever provide the gift of self healing and pride for our brothers and our community in the life. ■

The BGMT staff offers thanks to the Men of SECOND SUNDAY for their support throughout the year. With solemn wishes for a happy and joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year, our show of appreciation to you this holiday and throughout the millenium year 2000 is reduced cover when you present your current SECOND SUNDAY membership card and party with us at Club FUSION.

Peace, Blessings and much Thanks,
Reggie Thomas /BGMT


FUSION's
MILLENIUM 2000
CELEBRATION
SECOND SUNDAY Members
receive reduced cover
for all events
DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Every Thursday & Sunday nights "Ebony Flesh Male Review"
December 10th - BGMT / Fusion's - Tree Trimming Celebration
December 17th - BGMT / Fusion - Winter White Party
December 31st New Year's Eve Celebration
Doors open @ 11:30 P
- Showtime 12:30 A
- Emcee Maxine Blue
Every 1st Friday: $5.00 Admission B4 1:00 A - 1/2 off Drinks
Every 2nd, 3rd, 4th Fridays: $5.00 Admission B4 12:30 A - Drink Specials
Events Promoted by Reggie Thomas
B.G.M.T Fusion Atlanta
Classic House Music early every night in the Mainroom
FUSION: 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown/Atlanta (404) 872-6411
visit us at www.chocolatecityusa.com -- click on BGMT

2ND BIZ

the BUSINESS CORNER

malik m. l. williams BUYING OR JUST RENTING?

Brothers, we don't buy enough. Let's be clear: we spend all the time. We pay rent -- and not just for our apartments, lofts and cars, but also for our life experiences. We "put in our time" for a paycheck. We shovel out our money for perishable material goods. We barter our bodies for momentary affection. We rent.

We need to realize we have choices in our lives, always. We don't have to keep giving away everything we have -- and everything we are -- with nothing to show for it. We can make choices that will benefit us not just for a moment, but forever. We can buy instead of renting.

"Do you have a job?" How many brothers would immediately jump up and answer, "yes!" to the question. All right, what about a career or a business of your own? What is the difference? A job pays your bills. A job may even buy you many things you like but do not need. Nevertheless, a job cannot buy you satisfaction and fulfillment. Do you enjoy your job? If not, you are renting your paycheck instead of buying your success.

What do you want to do more than anything else? If you don't know yet, take some time to figure it out. Then figure out how to make your passion work for you. The people with the most successful careers are those who get paid to do what they would gladly do for free. If you are doing what you love, and someone is paying you to do it, you are buying into your career.

How do you spend your money? Do you have a nice car? A fabulous wardrobe? A beautiful apartment? Will you still have those same items 20 years from now? Or even five? If you are not putting your money into anything permanent, you are renting your present instead of buying your future.

How much money do you save and invest? Most of the common wisdom I have heard over the years suggests that we should save ten percent of our earnings right off the top. Don't think you make enough money to save ten percent? Well, how much less will you have years from now if you do not keep something along the way? It is critical that you pay yourself first. If you are setting aside part of your income, you are buying into your later years.

How do you behave in your relationships with other men? Do you focus on appearances and stereotypes? Are you "shopping" for a certain type of man, ignoring anything that is not on your list? Do you fall in love every time the sex is good? Do you expect him to fall in love if you "hit it" right? If you allow yourself to be caught up in the exterior elements of your relationships, you are renting pleasure instead of buying fulfillment.

Who is there when you need to stop playing games and be yourself? The person you need most in your life may be sitting next to you. So, you don't want to think about dating your best friend. Start thinking about the qualities that make him your friend. Maybe the next time you encounter a brother with those same qualities, you will find a reason to linger beyond "hello." Perhaps you will think about what you have to offer that is more than a sexual thrill. If you are looking past the surface, you are buying into a deeper love.

This is your life. Are you living it for the long run? How much do you value yourself? How much are you investing in yourself? What are you willing to do to own yourself? We all have choices. Are you ready to buy? Or are you still paying rent? ■

a look inside MEN 40-PLUS

david vaughn FORTY-PLUS: GETTING HEALTHIER, STRONGER & WISER

2ND REACH

Forty-Plus has spent the bulk of 1999 learning quite a lot about staying healthy, exercise, relationships and investing. The real plus of ***Forty Plus*** is that, not only are we 35 and older with interests quite different from those much younger, but we are learning more and more about ourselves each day. Each month we focus on topics that help us to become better people. This month's topic, Financial Planning, was no less important than the others.

Financial Planning is a topic that people thought was so broad and so foreign that they weren't sure how they would feel about the subject. However, for ***Forty-Plus***, financial planning took on several pertinent meanings. First of all, financial planning requires you to get your house in order by becoming aware of what your financial obligations are, what you owe and what you can spend on yourself. Do you live from paycheck to paycheck? What can you do to change your situation? Having a financial planner or a financial counselor can assist you with discovering your financial situation. Those who are over their heads with debt need to consult with a credit counseling service to assist them in getting out of debt and to plan to become better off financially. What is so significant about this topic is that after taking a few surveys, we found that 70% of our members don't have a will, haven't seriously looked at investments and haven't thought about their future financial health.

On another note, we have witnessed many of our brothers succumb to AIDS and be sent home for burial because they didn't take care of their insurance needs. Some families feel very ambivalent about that. Some families didn't have the money to deal with the situation at all. We should not be a burden to our families or loved ones. We need to see to it that we have proper insurance, not only for our health needs but to take care of our final bow as well. We discovered that most of us had insurance with our jobs and only with our jobs. It was strictly dependent on our continuous relationship with our employers. Once the relationship was over, whether you quit or were fired, the insurance usually stopped. We recommend that you get your own policy to cover you whether it is whole life or term life as well as disability insurance. With our new life styles -- that is, practicing safer sex, eating right, drinking less and eliminating the drugs -- we will probably live a lot longer. We need to prepare for the long life ahead; not only through insurance, but by preparing for our financial security as well.

Just like the tithing that churches follow, we should pay ourselves by saving a set amount of our income every month or every payday. There are many ways to do it. 401-K programs are perhaps best known to us because they permit you to save through your job. Many employers also match a portion of your contribution to a 401-K plan. IRAs through banks or investment houses, Roth IRAs and mutual funds are savings plans that will prove to be great investments in the long run also. Money markets and stocks and bonds provide other investment opportunities, but require a certain amount of research before you invest. Whatever you do, there are many convenient ways of investing; such as, through the assistance of financial counselors, the Internet and brokerage houses. Fees for the services are so low that nearly all brokerage houses offer the same services for you. As a result of the

continued on page 12...

j. d. guilford NEW "KIDS" ON THE BLOCK

I was picked up on Forsyth Street, walking from the Atlanta Library to Five Points Station. A black Mercedes sidled up beside me – slick as silver – chrome rims, tinted windows, its engine purring like a cat. Ron (I'll call him Ron because I can't remember his name) drove a few blocks. The usual small talk: Age? Occupation? Top or bottom? In retrospect, I can see the danger. But then, in the moment, it was pure unfiltered fantasy. Then, it was my wildest dream. An attractive Black man with a shiny car and deep brown eyes had propositioned me for sex. I was young and gay and excited and shy. What did I know of bashers? Of stunt queens? Of herpes? Chlamydia? AIDS? I was one of the new boys – fresh meat – and Ron had sniffed me out like the stealthiest of hunters.

He parked behind a dumpster in an abandoned parking lot. It was ten p.m. on a moist September's night and I was about to have my first "experience." As luck would have it, however, a police car flashed its quick white beams just as Ron placed his hand on my inner thigh. "Damn it!" I remember thinking. After a lecture and parking ticket from "Officer Friendly," Ron dropped me off at the Five Points MARTA station. We went our separate ways.

Years later, after I'd cruised Cypress and trudged the trails of Piedmont Park – eyes quarter-round, snapping pictures like a Polaroid – after many baptisms under the pulsating strobes of Loretta's and Traxx, after wasting hour upon hour negotiating the lines of City Chat Central, I met others like me: men who were once young and fresh. Men who thought they were the only one. Since my almost tryst with Ron, I'd learned that mine was not the only such tale.

During long 3:00 a.m. talks we exchanged stories, tossing them to a pile like poker chips. And the stories all carried the same basic theme: meeting an older, more experienced man (at the club, on the street); getting in his car (whereupon he took me to his house); his trying to (or succeeding in) have sex with me. Some of us had things to show for it, shimmery trinkets with grandiose names like Tag, Prada, Bravado, and D&G. Still, these baubles were not adequate compensation. Our naivete had been usurped. We were taken advantage of.

As a 24 years old college graduate, I am one month into my first intimate relationship that did not begin under the auspice of sex. Having been in the life for more than five years, I am a bit older and much wiser. I know the "trix" from the trade, the trade "trix," and the trade turning "trix." I've learned the rules of the game. Although I am only 24, my playtime is over.

There are new boys on the scene now. With IDs as fake as Milli Vanilli, the latest kids cross the threshold of the club. They call the chat lines, horny and blithe, boasting hazel brown eyes and foot long penises. They stroll Cypress, invincible as we all were at that stage, hips swiveling as cunt as she dares, or buried under layers of baggy denim, serving B-boy trade. Or worse still, shirtless and hungry-eyed, they walk. Hustling.

"Being gay is a sin," some say. "Convert!" "Casual sex is immoral!" "Chastity until commitment!" "Stop crusin' and stay out of the club!" Upon realizing the cycle of involution that is Black, gay life in Atlanta, upon realizing what is happening to this new generation of gay men to be, we've all adopted one or more of these mantras. Yet the problem is not with the sex, it is the way in which we, as young men, are initiated into this lifestyle: (1) Meet a man; (2) Exchange stats; and (3) Have sex.

Fortunately, there are venues such as 2ND SUNDAY and MY BROTHAZ KEEPER affording us alternatives to Cypress, "the trails" and "the line." In these gatherings, we are beginning to discuss relationships, homophobia, heterophobia and discrimination within our own community. At free clinics and private hospitals, we are being tested for venereal diseases. We are asking our partners those hard questions, such as "How many people have you slept with before me?" If we are ever to break this cycle of initiation by sex, we must teach our newly found children and ourselves a new way of being. In order to grow to fill the breath and depth of our personhood we must learn the import of self-esteem and self-love. ■

onyx gold I AM MY BROTHAZ' KEEPER!

I was asked to write something on behalf of MY BROTHAZ KEEPER. So I agreed. Recently someone responded to a personal ad that I placed on the Internet. The person, not knowing anything about me, wrote very graphically that he wanted to have sex. He told me he was sexually active with his uncle and he liked it. I don't wish to judge because for all I know, his uncle is his same age. That does happen a lot in our society today (uncles being nephews). Well I just ignored it and didn't respond. Well the person wrote again so I decided to advise him. The shocker is that this person is only 15 years old. Usually I have a problem meeting men in my age group. They are usually in there 30s and 40s. That's why I indicated in my personal ad that I was looking for someone between 17 and 25. Well I am my brother's keeper, so I told this person that what they are doing is very dangerous. I informed him about the realities of STDs, homophobes and desperate old men. I further informed the young man that because of our age difference (I am 20), the only thing that we could be at this time is friends.

The person responded back and let me have it! He told me that I'm the one with AIDS; that I shouldn't be soliciting sex over the Internet; and that I can't handle a 15 year old. He then ended by telling me that I have a three inch dick. Such language! I responded to this young man again and corrected him quickly. It seems that even "babies" only see sex. I simply said in my ad that I was in search of quality people. I also placed in there that I would be willing to talk to people coming to terms with issues concerning their homosexuality. I don't know where he got the idea that my ad was about sex. I have been approached by men in there 30s and 40s who have money. I have been approached to be a model for La Mancha videos (they make excellent videos… I love Kiko and Tiger). In other words, if I wanted to have sex and use people, I have had plenty of opportunities to do so. However, the sad thing is that this young man is going to respond to someone older who may take what he is offering. The sad thing is that this boy is going to be used for sex and thrown away. This boy is at risk for AIDS, poverty and a broken heart if he continues on his current path. I know because I've been there. I just thank GOD that I'm still here today and that I met people that actually cared about me and not my body parts. Will this boy be so lucky?

If you are a grown up, the next time you have the opportunity to have sex with a 15 year old boy think of how much of a man you really are. If you are 30 or 40, what do you want with a 15 year old? The only thing you should be concerned about is helping him realize that gay isn't synonymous with "Ho". I AM MY BROTHAZ' KEEPER! ■

my BROTHAZ keeper

THREE KINGS
--Warner Bros.

"Three Kings" will go down in movie history as one of the first films that focuses on the Gulf War. The story actually begins at the end of the conflict. Sergeant Major Archie Gates (played by that fine white boy George Clooney) and a couple of his troops (Mark Wahlberg and rapper Ice Cube) get their hands on a map that illustrates secret locations of bountiful gold that Saddam Hussein has stolen from Kuwait (you won't believe where they find this map!). Gates and the gang go on a daylong action-filled adventure to get the prize gold with the intentions of leaving the Gulf War as rich men. On their way to retrieve the goodies, the three soldiers witness first hand the destructive results of the war effort. The U.S. encouraged the Iraqi people to stand against Saddam and pledged support, but got slaughtered when no American support was given. The three "kings" are soon torn between their greed and humanity. I hesitate to call this movie a dark comedy, but it has some pretty dark humor nonetheless. The use of comedy to make some serious points entertains as well as educates the viewer. The action is classic shoot'em up, pow-pow, and should satisfy the bloodthirsty types in the audiences. This show will cause political debates in all types of settings. Speaking as a participant of Dessert Shield and Dessert Storm, the movie failed to really capture the true essence of the conflict. Even after the war was over, the misery alone could have made an intriguing story itself. Overall, this movie is worth the $4.50 I paid to see it (matinee is the way to go, fellas).

SEX TIPS FOR STRAIGHT WOMEN FROM A GAY MAN
--Regan Books

I know for a fact my brothers, that most of you have a "Judy." You know, a straight female friend. Say one day that you and your "Judy" are just sitting around, shooting the breeze, and the topic of sex with men comes up. Next thing you know, you two are comparing notes about how you do this and how she does that, and before you know it, you gave away trade secrets to the enemy. Well that's what author Dan Anderson did on the highest level when he co-wrote "Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man" with Maggie Berman. Some of the tips are so elementary, I can't believe that there are straight women out there that are not aware of some of the techniques of getting the man and hanging on to him. For example, there is a section called "Let Me See Your Tan Lines." Gay men are masters at coming up with simple lines to get guys to shed their clothes (I hear). A good line for that fine delivery boy: "My purse is in my bedroom." Or that poor unsuspecting guy at the club: "I have to go, will you walk me home/drop me off." Oh, and let's not forget the stuffy accountant: "Let me get that thread off your pants."

Then there's the basic knowledge section. A shower before sex is an absolute must. In a past life it might not have mattered, but your hands, mouth, tongue, and nose will be in some pretty wild places and for long periods of time (I hear). Hot and sweaty after sex is fantastic, but before is a no-no. There are tips about men naming their penis (no pun intended). Just play along when "Mr. Happy," "Little Elvis," "Mad Dog," or "George," comes a-knocking (not to knock on George though, George was a hottie!) The book is a great read for those who are totally green in the sack. Gay guys who are not quite up to snuff in the "pleasing your man" department can use it. I must admit that I am a little PO'd with Dan for writing this book and you should be too. Hell, it's hard enough to find and maintain a one-on-one relationship with a guy as it is without Danny Boy spilling trade secrets. What if your man gets snatched up by one of these trollops who now are equipped to please your man as well as you can. He might even turn into one of those bisexuals (a.k.a. confused sissies who will screw anything that breathes). So my brothers, I encourage you to keep quiet about techniques like the "Upstanding Citizen," the "Princeton Belly Rub," and my personal favorite, the "Combo Platter." If you are not familiar with these techniques go get the book or come see me. The illustrations by Luna are drawn in a scientific, but not explicit manner.

"MARY", MARY J. BLIGE
--(MCA)

It has been almost two years since hip-hop queen Mary J. Blige recorded a studio album. She has kept busy, making appearances on the CDs of other superstars. Some of the favors are returned by some of those superstars on her latest album "Mary." On this work she welcomes Aretha Franklin, Babyface, Eric Clapton, ex-honey boo K-Ci Hailey of K-Ci and JoJo, DMX, Nas, and Sir Elton John (Sir? HA!). Blige is not singing about how her heart gets broken over and over this time. "All That I Can Say" is a happy song; she sings, "Loving you is wonderful/Something like a miracle." In the same sense, "Beautiful Ones" is a love song that tugs at the heartstrings. There's a little sadness on this CD. The brilliant, "The Love I Never Had," is an anthem of strength. She blows out "I Gotta Wake UP!" while Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis conduct a funky band in the background. Mary is on the fast track of moving away from the hip-hop flavor that made her famous. She remains the queen of hip-hop. Whether singing next to the guitar of Clapton or the piano of Elton, the girl can sing her butt off.

"I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the brothers of SECOND SUNDAY a happy and safe holiday season." ■

Like a 1st impression, you don't get a 2nd chance to capitalize on a missed opportunity. For the wanna-be-savvy marketers and media buyers who missed this month's chance to reach your target market through advertising in 2ND READ, you don't want to make the same mistake twice.

2ND READ IS WHERE YOU WANNA BE!

FOR INFORMATION AND RATES CALL 770.435.5860

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

My name is Miles. For six months I have been dating this guy named Donny. When I met him I fell head over heels immediately. He is active in the gay community, he is out to his parents, and he volunteers at a Children's home. He seemed terrific! For the first couple of weeks after we met we spent all of our time together. Then, overnight, he began insisting on spending more of his time with his friends. And, even now when we do go out, he rarely asks what I want to do. He liked to go to Jazz clubs. I like Sports Bars. I like to spend the weekend watching football. He prefers to get up early on Saturday mornings and spend the whole day running all over the city. I do want to prove to Donny that I can be flexible and enjoy some of the things he likes to do. So very often I end up in a place or involved in an activity of his choosing. But it is really beginning to bother me that he never considers my feelings. What do you think, Tyrone?

--Miles

Dear Miles:

Why should he? Think about it: doesn't it seem like Donny is in the relationship all by himself? In other words, I would bet my Railroad retirement check that Donny would better appreciate you if you asserted your own identity and personality more often. No one wants to feel as if he is in a relationship by himself. And that is how this situation sounds to me – it sounds as if Donny decided where and when you all spend time together, alone; decides at which restaurants you will dine, alone; and among other things, probably decides if and how often you have sex...again, alone. So I ask you, why does Donny need you? Miles, learn this lesson and learn it fast my friend; if you do not honor yourself, others will not honor you either; if you do not set boundaries on and limits for how you wish to be treated, people will use you for a door mat; and if you show no interest in respecting yourself, your lover, friends, co-workers and any one else with whom you interact will eventually ignore you. I suggest that you sit down with Donny, look him square in the eyes, admit to him the role you have played in how he has treated you, and then firmly explain that you no longer intend to be a silent partner in your "love corporation." If the brother is unwilling to accept or adapt to this change run – do not walk – to the stereo, pull out all the Anita Baker and Chante Moore CDs you can grab, find a quiet place to lick you wounds, and start preparing yourself to do better the next time with someone else. You may have created a mess, but you damn sure don't have to sit in it!

--Tyrone

Hello Tyrone:

I have lived in the ATL for many months and have yet to make any male friends. I have never had a problem making friends with females, but can't seem to replicate such success with brothas; even after attending several 2ND SUNDAY functions. The fact that I am attractive only seems to complicate things, because the only brothas who talk to me are those that want to be more than friends... ASAP.

I admit that I am not a very outgoing person, and have been told that I come off as "snobbish" and "unapproachable." But, nearly everyone who's gotten to know me says I'm "lovable" and "really sweet." And my reserve doesn't seem to deter any sexual advances! "Whenever I go out I see tons of brothas with their boys and it makes me frustrated and depressed. I am sick of bedhopping and tired of being alone. PLEASE answer me, I really want to know what I should do!

--Lovable and Lonely

Dear Lovable and Lonely:

I hear you brotha, and you are not alone. There is an answer for you and I think it will help you and anyone else searching for friendship and camaraderie instead of sex. Like attracts like. If the only men you meet are interested in being sex partners, then my question is: what are you doing that would create such an aura? You signed your letter, "Lovable and Lonely," so perhaps this is a striking example of you seeking love (in any form) to combat your loneliness. Again, examine your actions and motives to determine why you are experiencing the results that you have had thus far.

As a visitor of 2ND SUNDAY, one solution to help ease you into a friendship circle is to approach any of the Executive Board members and give them some feedback on that Sunday's topic. This could help break the ice and possibly garner an invitation to many of the informal gatherings that occur after a 2ND SUNDAY meeting. Above all, we must be willing to do the soul work required. Go within, see what you are truly desirous of, and determine whether you may need to change your focus.

I also encourage you to attend Hillside Chapel and Truth Center. Many of the 2ND SUNDAY brothers attend this church, as well as the Unity Fellowship Church. As my grandmother taught me, if you just want any man you go anywhere to find him. But, if you want a man to treat you right, you will find him where he expects to be treated right.

Good luck in your journey. We love you, we appreciate you, and we thank God for you. PEACE.

Tyrone ■

***Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **SECOND SUNDAY**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 78705, Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705. Or e-mail him at:*

PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

FORTY-PLUS: GETTING HEALTHIER, STRONGER & WISER,

continued from page 8...

Internet, where fees are rock bottom, brokers and financial planners now recognize the competition and realize that they make money only when you do. What ***Forty-Plus*** is saying is that no matter what, you should save now for that rainy day. We procrastinate too much. When it comes to saving, we spend first and save whatever we can later. We should save first and then spread the rest to our creditors.

Members of ***Forty Plus*** are better off since we examined the subject of financial security. We recommend that all Brothers and Sisters examine their financial state of health and begin to prepare for a better future. Our economy is doing great now and we should be taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to us. Saving and investing is not a gay thing. It is a wise thing. We should be brilliant about all matters that concern our financial health. For more information, join us every 4th Sunday, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. where men of color, over 35, discuss these and other important issues. You may also contact us at 404-325-7321 or email Robert Mathis, the group's Director, at **Forty-Plus@SecondSunday.org** ■

2ND WORD

last words from **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

montee **THE QUESTION OF FRIENDSHIP**

As we approach the last holiday season of this millennium, let us prepare to take inventory of our "simple friends" versus our "real friends." Some of you all may have already received this via email, but I thought it would be fun to submit it in SECOND SUNDAY's NewsMagazine for those not yet connected to the World Wide Web.

Anyone can stand by you when you are right, but a Friend will stand by you even when you are wrong...

A simple friend identifies himself when he calls.
A real friend doesn't have to.

A simple friend opens a conversation with a full new bulletin on his life.
A real friend says, "What's new with you?"

A simple friend thinks the problems you whine about are recent.
A real friend says, "You've been whining about the same thing for 14 years.
Get off your ass and do something about it."

A simple friend has never seen you cry.
A real friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

A simple friend doesn't know your parents' first names.
A real friend has their phone numbers in his address book

A simple friend brings a bottle of wine to your party.
A real friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A simple friend hates it when you call after he has gone to bed.
A real friend asks you why you took so long to call.

A simple friend seeks to talk with you about your problems.
A real friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A simple friend wonders about your romantic history.
A real friend could blackmail you with it.

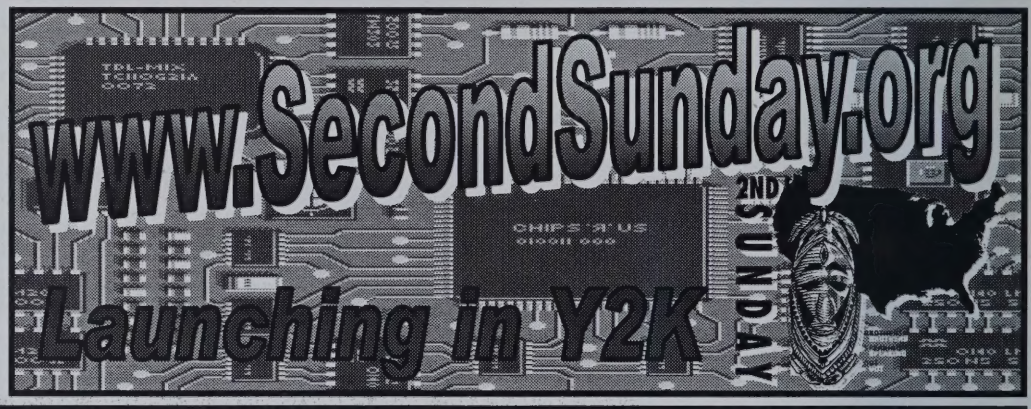
A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest.
A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps himself.

A simple friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument.
A real friend knows that it's not a friendship until after you've had a fight.

A simple friend expects you to always be there for them.
A real friend expects to always be there for you.

Now you must ask yourself, what kind of friend(s) do you have - simple or real? I know that the five best, best, best friends in the world somehow are mine (Chesley, John, Judy, Amybeth & Lee).

Hope all is well. ■



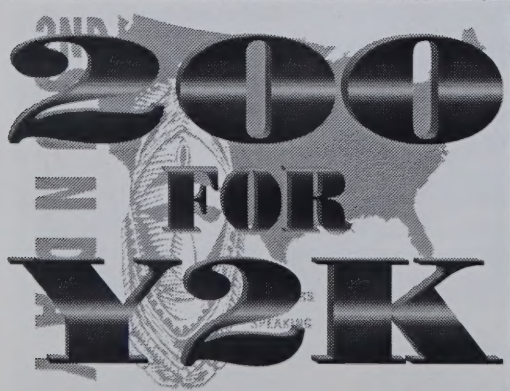
PRESS RELEASE

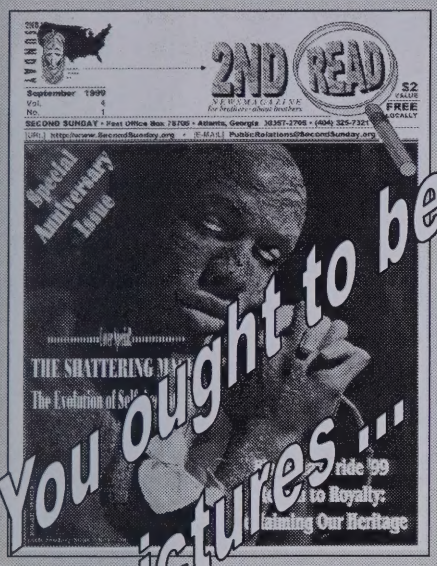
COMMUNITY NOTICE - UPCOMING RETREAT FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

Southerners On New Ground (SONG) announces its third Retreat for lesbian, two-spirited, transgendered, gay, bisexual, same-gender-loving People of Color throughout the Southeast (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia). The Retreat will be held the weekend of February 25-27th, 2000 in Birmingham, Alabama. We are inviting individuals who are involved in anti-oppression, social change work. We are working to make this multi-racial, multi-gender, multi-ethnic gathering safe and inclusive for all participants. We will fellowship, exchange stories about our lives and experiences, engage in interactive workshops and address the issues most relevant to us and the work we do.

Founded in the vision of Black and white southern lesbians, SONG's general purpose is to help integrate work against racism, sexism and economic justice into lesbigaytrans organizing and work against homophobia into freedom struggles to build progressive movement across the south. Our work resources local organizing, provides training and skills building, connects dots between issues, connects organizations and people, and models coalition links around race.

For more info about the upcoming Retreat and/or SONG, please call Co-Director Craig Washington in our Atlanta office at 404-249-8788; e-mail ***song4cw@aol.com***





...and 2ND READ is offering you, our Brothers, just that opportunity to grace the cover and pages of our January, Millenium 2000 Issue.

CALLING all Brothers who are READY for the Millenium!!!! 2ND READ wants you to be a part of our January 2000 Issue Photo Shoot. The issue will feature "The SECOND SUNDAY MEN of the MILLENIUM", celebrating and showcasing the pride and spectrum of our cultural, educational, political, spiritual, and socio-economic diversity.

We are interested in essays and 'Bio' information from Brothers who are willing to share your goals, aspirations and hopes for the new millenium. The deadline for submissions is Friday, December 17, 1999.

Meet us for the Photo Shoot at 2:30 PM on Saturday, December 18th at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, 450 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta (at the eternal flame). For more information please contact Darrol C. De Andre, Director of Public Relations at (770) 435-5860 or email PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

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my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

- Your confidentiality will be respected
- Every 3rd Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams,
Co-Director

Kevin Bynes,
Co-Director

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

40-PLUS

EXPERIENCE OUR MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS FOR

SAME-GENDER-LOVING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN

4TH SUNDAYS
4:00 - 6:00 PM

This is a discussion meeting for 40-Plus members.

The monthly forums examine issues important to men forty years of age and older.

Membership is open to Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent over the age of thirty-five.

Meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

2ND SUNDAY

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(404) 325-7321

2ND SAY

message from the CHAIR - EDITOR

richard s. moultrie, jr. THE ART OF "HELLO"

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the COMMUNITY BRIDGE

craig washington A SOJOURN IN SOUTH AFRICA

2ND BRIDGE

I was recently blessed with the opportunity to visit South Africa, a nation that has undergone some incredible changes and challenges. I learned so much during my 2-week stay, much of which has not even really sunken in. The deeper "life lessons" are much like time-release capsules that are absorbed more slowly and more fully, at their own pace. I hope to grow professionally and personally from this slow learning and I pray it will enrich my life and work.

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continued on page 3...

a **LETTER** *to the editor*

damon j. murphy **THROWING SHADE: DO WE RESPECT EACH OTHERS RELATIONSHIPS?**

As we know being a Black gay man is no easy chore in our society and finding someone to have a positive intimate relationship with can be an even bigger chore. So what happens when we see our friends finding that significant other? Do we help promote this new relationship in our friend's life or do we talk about the shortcomings of the new love interest and/or feel jealous that we haven't found that person yet. Do we doubt the relationship will last or secretively wish its demise or do we, out of surprise, buy the new couple free movie passes or a gift certificate at a restaurant? The question becomes what can we do to nurture Black gay male relationships? We know that society places strong taboos on male-to-male relationships, especially those involving African-American males. However, perhaps the most destructive force in our lives is the force we bring onto ourselves. I am issuing a call for Black gay men to think on a community-wide basis about how we view our intimate relationships. Many men I have come across this year seem to think that there is no happiness with another man. They say there is too much confusion in relationships between men. The response I tend to get is that "I'm just trying to get my freak on and stay single," or "I think eventually I'll marry a woman." One can argue that many brothers need to work on their own feelings of internalized homophobia, but even still, when two Black males enter into a relationship, our community needs to step to the plate in making it a nurturing environment for those relationships to thrive.

"Why is this not happening as widely as it should in our community?" one might ask. There are a few reasons. First, many Black gay men have to work on internalized homophobia issues. Many have blocked themselves from seeing positive Black gay male relationships. We are not taught by our parents or society to date men. Thus many of us learn as we go along in life what to do, often with negative information in our minds. We do not see many, if any, positive images of ourselves reflected in television, movies, theater, music, and in our own neighborhoods. Many of us pull the negatives inside our consciousness and claim them for ourselves. For example, we accept the notion that our relationships with each other can't work! We often spread this negativity to people around us, sometimes without being conscious of it.

Second, we have issues around jealousy. Of course, this is a human trait. This is in no way limited to gay men of color, but the way we react to this type of feeling is an individual choice. If we see our friend or even an acquaintance involved with someone that we like for ourselves, it is not proper to curse their relationship or to sabotage it by creating problems. As a community, we need to learn to move past our needs and wish couples well. Support them by surprising them with a gift, sending them a card to express your happiness for them, or just say something pleasant that will help promote positivity between them. Of course, we have no control over the details of their relationship; but wouldn't you appreciate the support of a friend and the (gay Black) community if you were experiencing something positive with a special someone? This is what we need to move toward. We cannot change what the African-American community or white gay community thinks of us; but we can change the way we think of ourselves. We cannot expect others to respect our relationships until we have done that for ourselves.

Additionally, we may not like the choice our friends make. This is not to suggest that we should be happy for brothers involved in relationships where they are abused physically, mentally or sexually. This calls for a different type of nurturing and support from the community. However, what I mean here is that if you don't like the choice a person makes, this should not mean that you do not support a positive relationship between a brother and his partner. Again, this requires that we move beyond our personal biases and wish the couple well. We often underestimate the power we have to make a conscious choice to help each other and in turn help ourselves become a stronger people. As we enter the the millennium, it is up to Black gay men today to pave a stronger path for those people who will walk in our shoes well into the twenty-first century. ■

A SOJOURN IN SOUTH AFRICA, *continued from page 2...*

shower. Or the tear-welling image of Simon Nkoli's* name unfurling from a rooftop summoning applause from the South Africa Gay Pride marchers. Then there was the nightlife. Brothers from South Africa, Cape Town, and Zimbabwe were more than happy to show Termain and I the variety of nocturnal gay activity. We hit some hot mixed (gay and straight) clubs that offered live and boxed music (South African house music worked me -- no doubt!!). I visited a jazz club where men (not particularly gay) drink and listen to jukebox jazz. In the clubs, brothers were extra friendly especially when they clocked our American accents. Some of this play is due no doubt to USA's immense socioeconomic clout worldwide. Not to mention that the currency exchange favors the American buck, 6 Rand to every 1 Dollar. I was never so conscious of my American nationality, particularly in terms of privilege and status. I had to really check myself throughout my stay. Like the Sweet Honey In The Rock song, I asked myself "Are My Hands Clean?"

In a card filled with love and affection, I was advised to reflect on the true purpose behind my trip. Knowing me rather well, my "counsel" encouraged me to be still and the answers would come. I am learning the value of patience. Without seeking, I have already found a renewed, restored, recharged commitment to individual and universal liberation. ■

---

* Simon Nkoli was Africa's most beloved AIDS activist and a leading organizer and political prisoner. Simon displayed tremendous courage and vision throughout a life cut much too short by HIV disease.

Craig Washington is Co-Director of SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND and a member of SECOND SUNDAY; he may be contacted at 404-249-8788 or you may email him at ***song4cw@aol.com***

SONG
SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND
Craig Washington
Co-Director
1447 Peachtree Street
Suite 1004
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 249-8788
fax (404) 249-1451
SONG4CW@aol.com

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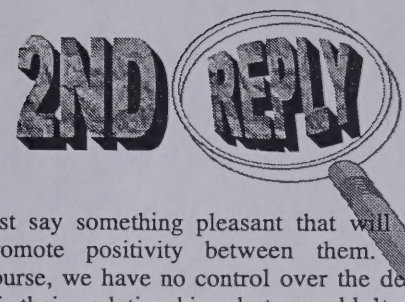

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Additionally, we may not like the choice our friends make. This is not to suggest that we should be happy for brothers involved in relationships where they are abused physically, mentally or sexually. This calls for a different type of nurturing and support from the community. However, what I mean here is that if you don't like the choice a person makes, this should not mean that you do not support a positive relationship between a brother and his partner. Again, this requires that we move beyond our personal biases and wish the couple well. We often underestimate the power we have to make a conscious choice to help each other and in turn help ourselves become a stronger people. As we enter the the millennium, it is up to Black gay men today to pave a stronger path for those people who will walk in our shoes well into the twenty-first century. ■

A SOJOURN IN SOUTH AFRICA, *continued from page 2...*

shower. Or the tear-welling image of Simon Nkoli's* name unfurling from a rooftop summoning applause from the South Africa Gay Pride marchers. Then there was the nightlife. Brothers from South Africa, Cape Town, and Zimbabwe were more than happy to show Termain and I the variety of nocturnal gay activity. We hit some hot mixed (gay and straight) clubs that offered live and boxed music (South African house music worked me -- no doubt!!). I visited a jazz club where men (not particularly gay) drink and listen to jukebox jazz. In the clubs, brothers were extra friendly especially when they clocked our American accents. Some of this play is due no doubt to USA's immense socioeconomic clout worldwide. Not to mention that the currency exchange favors the American buck, 6 Rand to every 1 Dollar. I was never so conscious of my American nationality, particularly in terms of privilege and status. I had to really check myself throughout my stay. Like the Sweet Honey In The Rock song, I asked myself "Are My Hands Clean?"

In a card filled with love and affection, I was advised to reflect on the true purpose behind my trip. Knowing me rather well, my "counsel" encouraged me to be still and the answers would come. I am learning the value of patience. Without seeking, I have already found a renewed, restored, recharged commitment to individual and universal liberation. ■

---

* Simon Nkoli was Africa's most beloved AIDS activist and a leading organizer and political prisoner. Simon displayed tremendous courage and vision throughout a life cut much too short by HIV disease.

Craig Washington is Co-Director of SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND and a member of SECOND SUNDAY; he may be contacted at 404-249-8788 or you may email him at song4cw@aol.com

SONG
SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND
Craig Washington
Co-Director
1447 Peachtree Street
Suite 1004
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 249-8788
fax (404) 249-1451
SONG4CW@aol.com

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

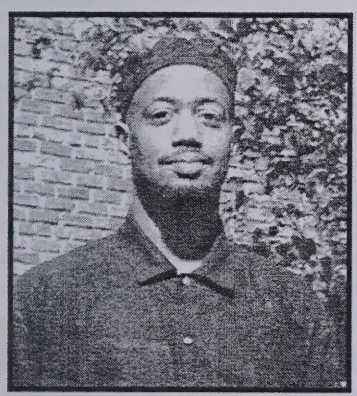
2ND READ

for brothers about brothers

April 1997
Vol. 1
No. 1

2ND SAY

a letter from our **Co-Chair**



Craig Washington

My brothers, my brothers, how far we have come! We come together some 150 strong every month come Sunday evening. We come together in love, in fellowship, in full appreciation of ourselves just as we are. We call ourselves by many names from "gay" to "bisexual" to "queer" to "queen" to "trade" to "adodi" but we are bound by one common identity as black men loving men. Our forefather Joseph Beam declared, "Black men loving black men is the revolutionary act!" As black men in America we are not supposed to love each other at all - regardless of sexual orientation. The very dearth of such love in these times is evidence of its prohibition. This is why it is so important that we realize the value of this special fraternity!

In February 1993, my friend Lance persuaded me to attend my first Second Sunday meeting. It was a small gathering, about ten brothers in Lance's living room, discussing men loving HIV+ men. For the first time I felt comfortable disclosing my HIV status to brothers I did not know. I sensed then that this group would have a profound role in my life. I was so right!

While my eyes are focused upon our future, my soul looks back in wonder at our amazing growth. In addition to our increased ranks, we have launched official membership dollars. These funds will help us enjoy more social outings, more stimulating workshops and a retreat this year. We now have out own newsletter with which we can spread the info (and the dish) that you require more effectively than ever. Second Sunday has become an Atlanta institution, folks in L.A., D.C., and New York know about us. In May, we'll join ranks with our sister organization "ZAMI" to host a co-gender dance/fund-raiser. Our fierceness abounds! Ulester and I are blessed to serve another year as your Co-Chairman. We are proud to simply call you "brother".

2ND LOOK

the black gay **Experience**

Mark Cunningham

The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's celebrated as a most significant event in the African-American intellectual tradition was also a crucial moment in gay literary history.

Many of it's central protagonist such as Alan Locke, Langston Hughes, Wallace Thruman, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay and Richard Bruce Nugent were either gay or bisexual.

Cullen was homosexual and maintained a life long relationship with Harlem school teacher Harold Jackson. Surely as a black man, race created problems for his creative expression, but his sexuality posed even greater dangers. Although married to W.E.B DuBois's daughter Yolanda early in life, and Ida Roberson only six years before his death, Cullen had a steady string of male lovers in the United States and France. He was a premier member of a thriving gay coterie in Harlem.

2nd Read is a newsletter headed by the **Public Relations Committee of 2nd Sunday**. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photographs of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person(s) or organization(s). If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at 404.325.7321.

BROTHERS SP

2ND VIEW

coming out of our **Glass Closets**

an editorial by Ian Courtney Barrett

I sat and listened as my White lesbian classmate talked about her roots in the Southern Baptist tradition. She went on to say that she felt alienated from her faith because Southern Baptists would not accept her sexuality. I thought to myself that Black churches and ministers, for the most part, hold the position that homosexuality is wrong.

The next event is profound, or simple, depending on your point of view. In front of 11 other students and the professor, I said that "as a Black gay man, I found Black Baptist churches unwilling to support my sexual orientation". I couldn't believe that I was saying this in front of straight people. It felt scary and natural at the same time. I was discussing issues in a public forum about which I had only debated with my gay friends in private settings.

During a break, the lesbian woman told me that she had hoped that I would come out during this quarter. I acknowledged her comment and I've been thinking about her comment ever since. My classmate had picked up on my "gay vibes". A speaker at the January 1997 Bayard Rustin Rally said that gays and lesbians live in glass closets. We can see out and straight people can see in. The glass keeps us from communicating. I believe that gays need to take the initiative to communication. Unless we communicate, this silence equals our collective death.

It is important that we as gay men of African decent come out of the closet. We must break the code of silence. Hate crimes, like the bombing of The Otherside, affect us. Taunting and jeering of our gay and lesbian teenagers in high school affect us. The inability of most of us to cover our partners under our health insurance affects us. The fact that no federal law covers discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation affects us. Ministers preaching that gay and lesbian people are going to hell and WE shouting "amen" affects us.

Coming out is a process, and not an event. One doesn't wake up one day and say that "I'm Out". It begins with self love, which should be one's first and last love. It begins with accepting ourselves for who and what we are. As Reggie G. says, you have to be able to look into the mirror and say "I'm Gay" and to feel comfortable with that. Next steps include coming out to family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors as we deem appropriate.

Coming out is a continuum. There is much space between both ends for all of us. Coming out may involve participating in the political and cultural events for gays and lesbians in our community. Events during 1997 have included the Bayard Rustin Rally/ML King Parade (January), In The Life Atlanta's Black History Month Program "Harambe" (February), and Portraits In An Archive; Preserving African American Gay and Lesbian History by the creation of an archive for Venus magazine at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (March). Coming out may include working on a Second Sunday committee. Coming out may include joining the gay and lesbian employee association at work if your employer (AT&T, Prudential, Turner Broadcasting, most universities) sponsors one.

Only after we come out will straight people be able to say, I know a Black gay man, I feel comfortable with him, and he is a part of my community. Each one of us needs to be on a mission to take a jack hammer, fists, Liz Claiborne pumps, or Kenneth Cole boots to break the walls of our glass closets.

2ND HEALTH

Carlos Cordero

Welcome to our first 2nd Health column. We hope this becomes a place to offer commentary on issues that affect our health and well being. In future issues we will make this a question and answer section so that your concerns become the column.

2nd Health is the name, 1st column is this issue. HIV stands in the forefront when we think about health. It is our dominating health concern whether we are infected or not.

I have a long history with this issue. The first time I was tested was without my knowledge. Back in 1986, I had gone to my mother's clinic to have my annual blood work done and she decided to test it for HIV without consulting with me. Only my mother! The results were negative and it made it easier for me to test annually. I am in awe of those who have the valor to test on their own. Without her initiative I don't know what would have taken to get me to follow through with testing.

1992 brought a reversal. I became positive (sero-converted) in the comfort of my relationship. This new information brought me a host of new realities. There's the potential of dealing with health crisis, disclosure and medical choices. Knowing my status made me deal with life in an intimate manner like never before.

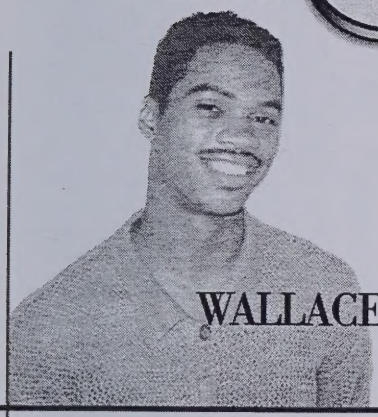
Ignoring the issue was tempting. There would be less worrying, no doctor's visits (unless I had to) and no rejection from those afraid of the virus. Last but not least was dealing with the "how did I get it" question from this largely homophobic society.

So I took a hard look at the issue; the H in HIV stands for human, not punk or junkie, amoral or 'ho, just simply human. A qualification I could live with, so I did. A human virus whose conduit into my life was love.

Looking back, this knowledge gave me power. Power gave me responsibility and responsibility gave me respect myself, don't you think?

EAKING OUT!!

2ND BRO.



WALLACE HENRY III

an interview by Edwin Maurice Cook

EC: Where are you at this point in your life?

WH: I am at a point where I am coming out and experiencing the thrill by getting more involved in the community. I'm in a space of healing to make up for time spent in silence.

EC: What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the black gay community and what do you see as the solution?

WH: Apathy, I feel is the biggest problem. And the solution is to challenge the institutions that society likes to trap us in (i.e. church, government)

EC: How does spirituality fit into your lifestyle?

WH: Knowing who I am as God created me, and not as society has defined me. I have found that I cannot separate spirituality and life. If I love myself then I must understand and know that God loves me as I am.

EC: What does Second Sunday mean to you?

WH: Second Sunday is a step towards a more positive black gay community. It's a place to voice my opinions and see others who are challenging stereotypes in an intelligent and safe environment.

EC: What has attending Second Sunday done for you?

WH: It has caused me to question my stand and comfort level of being an out black gay man.

EC: What contribution do you bring to Second Sunday?

WH: A positive perspective on being a black gay male who is HIV positive.

EC: Who are the people that inspire you?

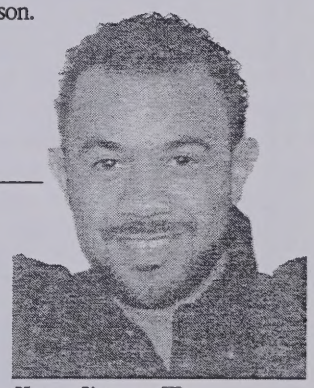
WH: My mother, sister and my partner.

EC: What are your goals?

WH: I would like to go back to school and teach literature at a college level.

EC: Finally Wallace where do you see yourself in the future?

WH: I'd like to be one of the key figures in the community pushing for change, acceptance and wanting others to take a stand for themselves and embrace themselves as a total person.



2ND SPIN

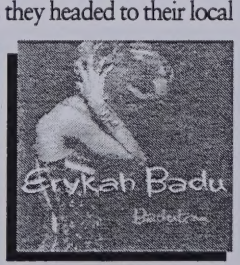
by Robert Hunter Simmons III

In this column, I'll be reviewing music. Both new stuff and not-so-new stuff that I really like. Since I have such a large appetite, musical that is, I will review a varied mix of music. I will also try and keep you abreast of the latest music and entertainment news. If there is any artists you would like me to share with the readers of 2nd Read, let me know. You can E-mail me @ RHS3@mindspring.com or mail in your responses to: Second Sunday • P.O. Box 310 • Atlanta, GA 30301

Enjoy, and I look forward to hearing from you.

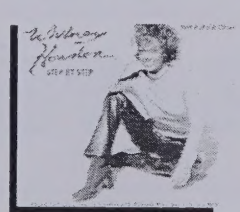
Erykah Badu - Baduism

Badu....Badu....Badu....that's what the entranced people with their arms stretched out, chanted as they headed to their local record store to purchase the debut record by Erykah Badu. This child of the gods just seemed to burst out of no where to have a number one album with Baduism. I was definitely one of the people practicing Baduism after I heard this record. I have not stopped playing this CD since I got it. I play it while I'm getting ready for work. I play it in the car on my way to work. I play it morning, noon, and night. Needless to say I am in love with Erykah Badu, there is not a track on the record that I don't love. All I can say is if you don't have this CD you are definitely missing out. Erykah Badu is Billie Holiday reincarnated. She sounds so much like Billie Holiday it is unbelievable. My favorite track, if I had to pick just one, would be #8, "Certainly". This simple stripped down song with just an acoustic bass, a piano, and a drummer is heaven.

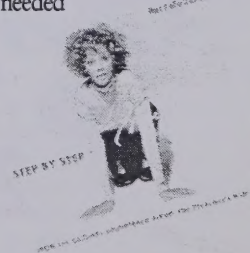


Check Erykah Badu out on the Internet at www.kedar.com

Whitney Houston
Step By Step
(The Remixes)

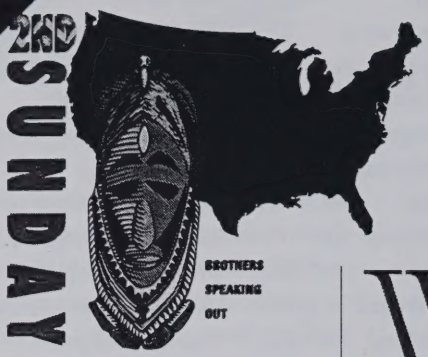


Whitney has just unleashed the remixes to "Step By Step" her fab single from The Preacher's Wife Soundtrack. The CD-5 has 5 remixes and the original version. The "Toney Moran Remix" is hot. It is a little over 10 minutes of pure house Work-Out, and the "Junior's Arena Anthem Mix", Oh Baby!! Annie Lennox, who wrote the song for Whitney, is featured prominently singing background on this version. I guess Whitney is trying to retake her crown as the "Remix Queen" from Mariah Carey. She even found a cute wig to wear in the video—she has such a hard time with her wigs. Thank you Whitney, I needed this from you. It's been too long.



NEW LOCATION

2ND TOPIC



Where is our money going?

April 13, 1997

CITY HALL EAST
Pheonix Room

What are some positive ways gay black men can get together and make some money?

How do we begin to plan for the future, when we're bearly making it today?

We're spending our money at gay black clubs and bars, but are they spending any on us?

This and so much more.

Come ready to share your point of view on this issue, to listen and to be enlightened.

RAIN OR SHINE

"It's A Spring Thang"

Don't forget your potluck dish.

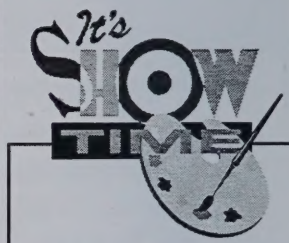
HOSPITALITY

POTLUCK THEME

"It's a Spring Thang"

finger sandwiches
fruit salad
vegetable trays
deviled eggs
jell-o-mold
casserole dishes
soft drinks

use these as a guide to your contribution to our potluck theme.



Palette of Diaspora:
a black mans experience

Benny Andrews
Carl Christian
Michael Ellison
Michael Morgan
Freddie Styles
Omar Thomas

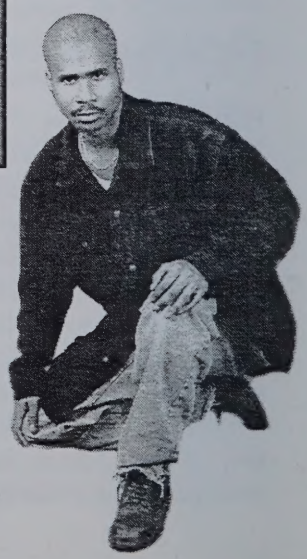
Gwinnett Fine Arts Center
Duluth, GA
Opening May 17, 1997
Gallery # 770.623.6002

CONGRATULATIONS

OUR *Terrell Smith*

2nd Sunday **Historian**

Terrell Smith accepted an award for 2nd Sunday, "Best Gay Organization" at the Entertainer of the Year Award Ceremony held at Lorretta's Night Club.



2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

$2 VALUE
FREE LOCALLY

November 1998
Vol. 2
No. 3

SECOND SUNDAY • Post Office Box 310 • Atlanta, Georgia 30301 • (404) 325-7321
[URL] http://www.SecondSunday.org • [E-MAIL] PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

2ND SAY — *a message from our* CO-CHAIR

craig washington MAKE ME WANNA HOLLER...

...THE WAY WE DO OUR LIVES

Do you know that black men who-have-sex-with-other-men account for the majority of AIDS cases among African-Americans? Or do you buy the palatable fallacy that "African-American women are the hardest hit?" Do you believe the N.A.A.C.P. will hear the concerns of Black gay men as they at long last take on AIDS? How does it make you feel knowing that the son of Martin Luther King, Jr. considers AIDS a non-priority for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.)? Does it cross your mind to write him and ask him just what does cross his mind?

And what do you think about when you see our black men lining the Cypress, West Peachtree auction blocks? Do "trade" worry about HIV or should we worry about what trade worries about? Oh and by the way did you witness how two "respectable" (i.e. non-trade) SECOND SUNDAY members died in shame and silence? Did you hear how one was heterosexualized in the eulogy while the other's pastor chastised attendants for wearing red ribbons?

Have you heard that the only national organization providing technical assistance for HIV prevention among Black gay men is now defunct? Do you know how many such men are living here in Atlanta? Do you know how many HIV prevention programs exist for these men? Did you notice how many members of Brothers-Back-2-Back participated in the AIDS Walk? Did you catch how many SECOND SUNDAY members walked? Do you think this is "more like" a Brothers-Back-2-Back problem?

Do you see the picture here? How is your faith? Does it inspire in you the vision of a brighter day? Can you imagine a southern metropolis where more brothers promise more dollars for more treatment access, quality health care and effective prevention programs? Can you see us flooding the Statewide HIV Planning Council or the Metro Atlanta Planning Council with membership applications? Could you apply Iyanla Vanzant's philosophy to this issue? Did you see the sermon on the mount given by actress Beah Richards in the film "Beloved" in which she declared, "They don't love your hands. You got to love your hands"? Do you feel me? Do you? ■

from the PUBLISHER

Felicitous Greetings! ... Brothers, Community, Loyal Readers. With Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the New Year approaching: 'Tis the season to naturally wax reflective on the many joys and blessings realized throughout the year, as well as appreciate the wisdom gained from those more challenging experiences. Please, indulge me as I acknowledge my offerings of gratitude for this Thanksgiving season.

I am behooved to give thanks to our beloved SECOND SUNDAY, and the Men who, for six years now, continue to maintain an atmosphere which nurtures pride, unity and empowerment among same-gender-loving-men of African descent; a brotherhood that continues to provide a forum for consciousness-raising, relationship-building, spiritual-growth and personal-development "in the life"; a family that continues to celebrate diversity with acceptance, appreciation, understanding and respect for our individual agendas.

I am also encouraged to give thanks to the incredible brothers with whom I work to promote the goodwill of SECOND SUNDAY, and publish this hallowed medium, 2ND READ. Their commitment, professionalism, talent, and wisdom are unparalleled in the annals of history. Apparently, I must have performed some good karmic deeds during my previous lives to warrant being allowed in audience with such brilliance.

And on behalf of the publishing body of 2ND READ, I offer thanks to you, our readers, advertisers and contributors for your loyal support, your gracious accolades, and your constructive suggestions. We consider this venture a partnership with the "in the life community" to provide a publication within which to share with each other our concerns and interests, our pursuits and triumphs, our trials and tribulations, etc.

So, may peace, blessings and glad tiding continue to abound this holiday

(continued on page 2)

2ND READ** is a newsletter published by the Public Relations Committee on behalf of **SECOND SUNDAY**. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers. Publication of a name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. If you want to respond to this newsletter please call us at **404.325.7321**, or e-mail us at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S *desk*

richard moultrie THE PURSE STRING FACTOR

Frequently I discuss with friends the idea of disclosing my sexual orientation at my workplace. Long ago I resolved to make every effort to avoid actively misleading my co-workers about my private life -- you know, by playing fast and loose with pronouns by replacing "he" with "she." But at the same time, I am clear that I remain unprepared to place a picture of a lover atop my desk. Nor do I expect, within the near future, to add, during casual conversations with my colleagues, information about weekend plans to share dinner with a man. I recognize that my fear around choosing to be "out" on the job rests, in large part, on what I call the "purse string factor".

I fear that a decision to divulge my sexual orientation at work poses financial risks. This is what I mean by the purse string factor. I imagine all sorts of ominous scenarios materializing should I make this declaration. For instance, I foresee a significant decrease in the amount of my raises, or worse, no further salary increases at all! I envision job assignments that no longer provide the fast-track career advancement currently available to me. Certainly some of this anxiety is unfounded. However, employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is not only prevalent, but also without remedy under the constitution.

On the other hand, I also appreciate that we, as Black, gay men, can not relegate to others the fight for recognition, acceptance and tolerance of homosexuality in the workplace. For my part, I remain hopeful that my ambitious nature will help me to overcome this purse string challenge. I recall that at one time I did not dare to disclose my sexual orientation to my parents for fear of losing their love and support, but this is a factor no longer. I also remember squirming uncomfortably when past lovers reached for my hand in public, but I squirm no longer. So, I keep optimistic that one day I will pull out my faith shears and make short shrift of these purse strings. ■

PUBLISHER, *from front page*

season. I hope that as you wax reflective, you may realize abundant causes and reasons to be appreciative for being alive, and that you have reaped the experiences in your life.

I also, hope that you find this month's thought-provoking issue enlightening and entertaining; and if per chance it conditions an epiphany, I trust that you will recompense our commission of the royalty by sharing it with us next month. Enjoy!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Darrol C. De Andre
Public Relations Director

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to: **2ND READ, c/o SECOND SUNDAY, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301**

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1998 NOVEMBER 1998

03

!! VOTE !! VOTE !! VOTE !! VOTE !!
Tuesday, November 3rd

VOTE! To Make A Real Difference In YOUR Everyday Life!

06

"BROTHAS" BOWLING NIGHT
Friday, November 6, 1998
11:00 p.m. - Until

EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta, GA
(404) 874-5703

08

2ND SUNDAY
Workshop/Discussion Meeting
"ADDICTIONS!: PERSONAL POWER"
Sunday, November 8, 1998 - 6:30 p.m.

CITY HALL EAST - PHOENIX ROOM
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA

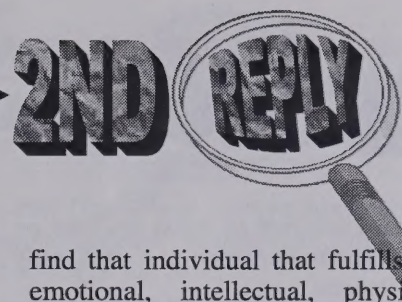
15

2ND SUNDAY
Quarterly MEMBERSHIP Meeting
Sunday, November 15, 1998 - 6:30 p.m.

LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

a **LETTER** *to the editor*

d.j. murphy **BLACK GAY MONOGAMY IN ATLANTA:**



...IS IT JUST A DREAM?

Just before I relocated from Miami, Florida, a friend told me that I would have a hard time finding a "good man" in this city. As he put it, "Atlanta is a town full of whores!" I found his statement odd, since Miami is a city where people are known to visit from all over the world in search of fun, sun and loose sexual relations. But I gathered from his statement that it might prove difficult to find and KEEP a good man; in particular, a good Black man, since there is a large population of gay men of color in Atlanta. I also imagined, based on his statement, that everywhere one turns, there is someone ready to steal you and/or your boyfriend, especially when both parties involved in the union are considered "cute."

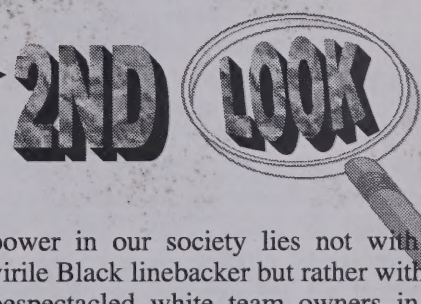
Yes, I mused, temptation does indeed exist everywhere you turn in Atlanta. For instance, when was the last time you visited Lenox Mall, Piedmont Park, Club Fusion, or a SECOND SUNDAY meeting without seeing a brother that caught your eye? Chances are if you answer "No" to this question, you are literally or figuratively blind. But I question whether this state of affairs means that Atlanta is a meet/meat market, threatening the life of any monogamous Black, gay male relationship? First of all, I realize that every one does not subscribe to monogamy. Some prefer a lifestyle of sex parties, threesomes, and frequent dating. Thus, the city should not be blamed because some brothers make these choices.

Still, while there does not appear to be a shortage of gay men in the "ATL" seeking a special guy to date exclusively, I can not help but wonder: why, in a town where Black, gay men are so prevalent, so many remain single? I discussed this question, and others, with an acquaintance named Dudley, whom I met while attending my first SECOND SUNDAY meeting in April of 1997. Dudley, now a good friend, talked about his relationship of twenty years. I asked him, "What keeps your relationship going after twenty years?" Dudley responded that, "...when you find that individual that fulfills all your emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual needs, then the qualities of the individuals around you pale in comparison. There is a great deal of respect you feel that individual deserves and this is what keeps you from temptation." Dudley then admitted that, "I do find other men attractive, but they don't measure up in comparison to Robert. I feel this is what defines being in love. This is what keeps the flame going after twenty years."

I am convinced that if this can happen for one couple, it certainly can happen for many others. It is in the man one selects, not the city in which he selects to live that determines whether the relationship survives. So, is Atlanta a town full of "whores?" While there may exist a certain element in Black, gay life that promotes loose sexual relations, I believe that finding romantic fulfillment -- in Atlanta as well as in any other city -- it totally depends upon the company you keep and the places you frequent. ■

an **EYE ON THE COMMUNITY**

homophobia in the **AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY**



--- Submitted by Staff Writer ---

Alas! As painful as it may be to admit, homophobia remains an all-too-prevalent factor in the African-American community. As if the African-American community were not already encumbered with far too many social pathologies, here arises yet another plague aimed at discrediting and even destroying a valuable segment of our population. Apparently, many in the Black community view that homosexuality is in some way a threat to all that is positive about our people. They argue that homosexuals are a menace to the procreation of the species; that homosexuality is just one more of the white man's schemes to destroy us as a people; that homosexuality is a transgression against God's law. And on and on, the arguments go.

Curiously, those in our community who attack homosexuality on religious grounds show themselves as "selective" with regard to identifying "sin." Homosexuality is wrong according to religious teaching, they assert. Yet heterosexual sex outside marriage is excused or at least ignored.

In the particular case of Black male homophobes, it appears that many of these men seek to erase the insecurities visited upon them by white power. And homosexuals seem a vulnerable and convenient target. It is no accident of nature that many Black males excel in sports, the military and other "physical" pursuits. Seemingly, far too many Black males view such undertakings as a manifestation of masculinity. Many of us with military experience recall the Black drill instructor as a terrifying nightmare. But ironically, the **real** male power in our society lies not with the virile Black linebacker but rather with the bespectacled white team owners in the front office. With a mere stroke of a pen, these physically "weak" white men wield the power to emasculate most Black sports superstars. Yet many in the Black community appear too myopic to grasp this reality. Homophobia and a quest for a "healthy" sexual identity blind them to these truths.

Indeed, homophobia remains an issue with which we in the African-American community have thus far failed to come to terms. It is an issue which will not disappear. Instead, frustrations generated by factors which have nothing to do with sexual orientation continue to fester in our community, causing the progress of our people as a whole to falter. ■

2ND LOOK

INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

allan f. reid AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PLAN

"A gift consists not in what is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer" --Seneca

It is with great pleasure that I send salutations to my brothers in SECOND SUNDAY and to all brothers who share a feeling of goodwill one to the other. The members of 40-Plus formed this group with the intent of filling a void in the social interaction of brothers 35 years and older who are paid members of SECOND SUNDAY. We ask members to commit some of their time to one of the four standing committees (Membership, Activities, Hospitality and Topics). By doing so, we hope to provide ways to enable 40-Plus members to bond, and to make the group more cohesive.

Presently, the group consists of thirty-six paid members. However, it has not proven easy to commit these thirty-six individuals to volunteer on a committee. This concerns me, since I hear brothers say they are looking for alternative outlets to clubbing and other "trivial" pursuits. Therefore, I wonder why these same brothers seem unwilling to give of their time to develop a kinship which can support them in any given circumstance. Brothers must remember that it is better to give than to receive. Robert Mathis, Co-Chair for SECOND SUNDAY, and I envision 40-Plus as a viable entity, and one that will continue to grow and meet the needs of all its members. Hopefully, brothers will realize too, that volunteering is an integral part of the plan. ■

mykul h. jones PRODUCT LIABILITY

I discovered the "40-Plus" group while attending SECOND SUNDAY meetings. The 40-Plus group is a discussion and social activities group geared toward Black gay men 35 and older. It meets every fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Lambda Center located at 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

I initially thought about the group's ability to offer a dating pool of older, more mature and experienced, professional men. Additionally, I reasoned that from the topics covered, I would get to know my "product" a lot better -- namely, me. Let me explain. First, we are all, in a sense, our own product. We know more about ourselves than we do about Coke, Pepsi, our favorite foods, clothes, or anything else to which we are exposed or choose to buy. As a result, how we advertise our product directly relates to whether we make a "sale" -- that is, a date.

When we, as individuals, impress someone enough so that he chooses to spend time with us, that person gets a closer look at the product we advertise. Too many times I purchase a product and unwrap the package only to find it empty. At other times, upon using a product as advertised, I found it did not work, literally! Still, on other occasions, I discovered that while a product might be packaged exceptionally well, be full of potential, look good on me, under me and around me, it simply was not the product for me. Have any of you been there?

Consequently, I am becoming more aware of what the market will bear, and the appropriate price for my product. I decided that I can let it go for some honesty, loyalty, commitment, intelligent conversation, ability to compromise, sexual prowess, and independent financial means. I intentionally priced my product for a select few, since I recognize that I am a luxury item. At the same time, however, I find that my packaging appears deceptive to many. Some see a battered artifact, practically ready for the flea market or some worthy charity, rather than a priceless work of art. But you know, art is in the eye of the beholder.

Perhaps, as 40-Plus continues to help me refine my inner product, I can work more on the exterior packaging as well. So for those of you who realize that you are not making the sales you deserve, come join us and redesign your product for those with discriminating tastes and a sharp eye for quality, value and service. Also, comparative shopping is negotiable. ■

2ND SUNDAY

40-Plus

November Discussion Group Meeting

"FORTY, BLACK & GAY"

Facilitator: GREGORY COSBY, L.M.S.W.

Sunday, November 22, 1998, 4:00PM

Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ALLAN REID AT 404.212.9705

GERALD LEVERT: LOVE AND CONSEQUENCES
--EastWest Records

When we listen to this work of art by Gerald Levert, you have to wonder who is he pretending to be? Is he that ever so cool Marvin Gaye, or that mistro of seduction Barry White, or is he the reincarnation of his father, the velvet-voiced Eddie Levert, lead singer of the O'Jays.

Whoever he is, one thing is for sure: Gerald seems to reinvent himself after each song. After listening to one song, you'll feel relaxed without a care in the world. After another, you'll have that running-through-the-meadows-because-I-feel-so-good feeling that we get when we are at peace with ourselves. The next thing you know, you'll hear one of those baby-making tunes that may force you to go get your freak on.

Gerald is joined by a few impressive friends and family on this CD, including long time musical partner Edwin "Tony" Nicholas, Lazy Bone and Ken Dawg of Bones, Thungs 'N Harmony, Mary J. Blige, and his brother Sean Levert. The final song of the CD is a heart tugging piece entitled "Humble Me", which is his best duet to date. He is partnered with his eight year-old son, Lemicah. Unfortunately, I don't believe that this CD is receiving the radio air time that it deserves.

BELOVED

After struggling 10 years to get this movie made, Oprah Winfrey triumphs as star and producer of "Beloved." The film, based on Toni Morrison's 1988 Pulitzer Prize winning novel, takes nearly three draining, yet devastating hours to reconstruct the life of Sethe, a former slave who worked low paying jobs to support herself in rural Ohio in the late 1800's.

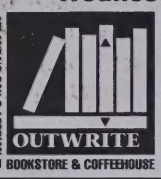
Members of the neighborhood avoid Sethe's shack of a house for good reason: It's haunted by the spiteful spirit of the baby daughter that Sethe murdered. Winfrey gives a wonderful performance as the guilt-ridden Sethe. There is already speculation that Oprah will receive her second Oscar nomination. The supporting cast members are fully developed and add grace to the action of the film.

Danny Glover portrays Paul D, another former slave who endured brutality on the Sweet Home plantation in Kentucky, just as Sethe did. Glover makes this role his own with anger and compassion. Paul D, who was a friend of Sethe's deceased husband, hopes to begin a relationship with Sethe. Sethe's two older sons are scared off by the spirit, and daughter Denver, played by up-and-coming star Kimberly Elise (remember her from "Set It Off"?) can't bring herself to go outside.

The spirit of the murdered Beloved radiates as a red light, throws furniture and shatters mirrors. Soon, she takes on the adult human form of the lovely Thandie Newton, a seducer with the mind of a vengeful two-year-old and the voice of a demonic baby. Thandie may very well have the movie phrase of the year: "Touch me on the inside part."

The movie relies on flashbacks of the Sweet Home plantation to keep the story in perspective. Lisa Gay Hamilton gives realistic agonizations in her performances as the young Sethe. This is an exceptional movie that should bring Winfrey and company great recognition. There is one catch: If you are not in the theater when the film starts to roll, chances are that you will be totally lost, so get to the theater early. ■

Meet PEARL CLEAGE
Oprah's Book Pick: *[Avon, $12.00]*
"What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day"
Wednesday, November 11, 1998 · 8:00 p.m.



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Midtown/ Atlanta
(404) 607-0082

As a participant in "Dining Out For Life"
20% of Food proceeds that evening donated to Project Open Hand

2ND SUNDAY
sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

- Your confidentiality will be respected
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- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

1998

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

I'm a 21-year-old man who just accepted being gay. I have been seeing this guy for about two weeks now and so far all we've done is hug and kiss. Tyrone, I don't know how to French kiss. I know the basics, like using my tongue, but don't know where to put it, how to move it around or where to put my hands. How do you French, in details?

--Wannabe Frenched

Hi Wannabe:

Ahhhh... the excitement of your first frenchie! Don't worry so much! Kissing is something that comes naturally to most. You'll probably find that it does for you as well. Here are some definite don'ts:

Don't...

1. *Eat mass amounts of garlic or onions beforehand.*
2. *Bite off his tongue! Nothing spoils the moment more than having to rush to the ER with a tongue on ice.*

Different people like to kiss and be kissed differently. Some people like to stick that sucker in so deep that it touches the top of the Adams apple. Some like to let their tongues hang out just a little at the entrance. Follow your partner's lead and do what he does at first, then add your own little spice as you gain experience. MUAH!! A big wet sloppy kiss for ya! Good luck!

~~~~~~~~~~

Hello Tyrone:

I'm an HIV+ individual. I'm on several of the new drugs and it has suppressed the HIV, meaning the disease is at an undetectable level. Here is my problem: I'm honest to everyone I meet about my condition, but it always meets with hesitance and then lost friendships. I told this guy I was dating for about 2 weeks and he has stop calling. How can I stop this cycle. I want to date and I want to be honest! Should I stop telling and just practice safe sex? I don't know.

--R. Moss

Hi R.:

Tough! Tough! This is a very difficult question. I meditated on it, I even spoke to different people and the responses I received echoed the battle that's going on with you. You can image the responses. Without sounding condescending, I feel your pain. Let's talk options: Have you ever considered dating or pursuing someone in a similar situation. Wait, wait! Let me stop trying to be politically correct! If you were my friend, I would tell you not to tell. If you are merely dating these people and there is no exchange of bodily fluids, (I have to go there), then why bother. Continue to go out and enjoy dating for what it is, a getting-to-know-you process! Who knows, you could meet your best friend. Today, so many of us are only interested in sexual compatibility, that we experiment too soon with sex before a friendship is formed.

If you two are still "dating" six months from now, then you may want to consider telling. You will find that these days, not too many people will be scared off. Some may disagree with this advice, but you didn't come to them, you came to me. I remember dating this guy and on the first date, he wanted to pull my piece out. I'm thinking, this guy is nice, but too bad he's only interested in sex. Alright, off the the soap box. Be honest, date and have fun! ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

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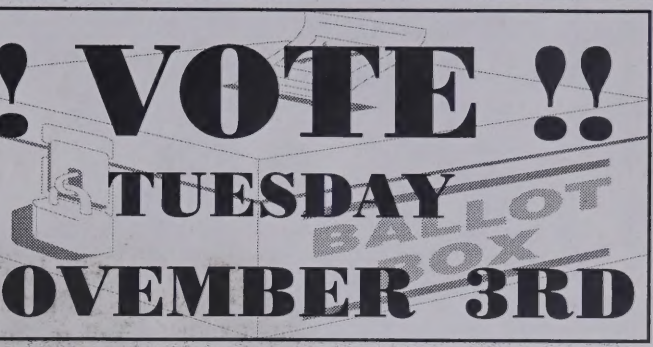
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3RD



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INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVE
LBN LOCALNET BROADCAST NETWORK

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FAX: (404) 212-0192
E-MAIL: kaietuk@juno.com

2ND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Quarterly Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1998, 6:30 p.m.
LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

ADDICTIONS!

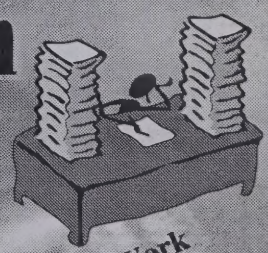
Alcohol

900 Lines!

"Personal Power" Workshop/Discussion

Facilitator: *Darryl!*

Are addictions getting in the way of your life? Join us as we identify types of addictions and ways to diffuse their hold on your life.



Work

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

City Hall East • Phoenix Room
675 Ponce de Leon Avenue • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

November COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1998

Friday, 11/06/98

11:00 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY "BROTHAS BOWLING NIGHT" Express Bowling Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta. (404) 874-5703

Sunday, 11/08/98

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY, Workshop/Discussion Meeting. Topic: "ADDICTIONS: Personal Power" Discussion group for Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Men of African descent; held at City Hall East - Phoenix Room, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Tuesday, 11/10/98

7:30 p.m. I.T.L.A. Planning Committee Meeting, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta.

Wednesday, 11/11/98

8:00 p.m. Meet PEARL CLEAGE Book signing & reading "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day" OutWrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta

Sunday, 11/15/98

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY Quarterly MEMBERSHIP Meeting, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Sunday, 11/15/98

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Saturday, 11/21/98

9:00 p.m. SPEAKFIRE, Open mic. AIDS SURVIVAL PROJECT, 828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor, Atlanta.

Sunday, 11/22/98

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting. Topic: "FORTY, BLACK & GAY" For more info call Allan Reid at (404) 212-9705.

Tuesday, 11/24/98

7:30 p.m. I.T.L.A. (IN THE LIFE ATLANTA) Planning Committee Meeting, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. Sponsoring Community Kwanzaa on December 26, 1998; at the Wyndham Hotel, Midtown, 10th Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 872-6410.

WORKSHOPS FOR BROTHERS IN THE LIFE

"Family Addictions: Workaholism & Drugs"

DECEMBER 5, 1998 • 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.

LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, 2nd Floor
Atlanta, Georgia

[$20 Advance Registration • $25 At The Door]

For more information contact:

Ulester Douglas, LMSW (404) 635-9418

Robert Mathis, LCSW (770) 496-4338

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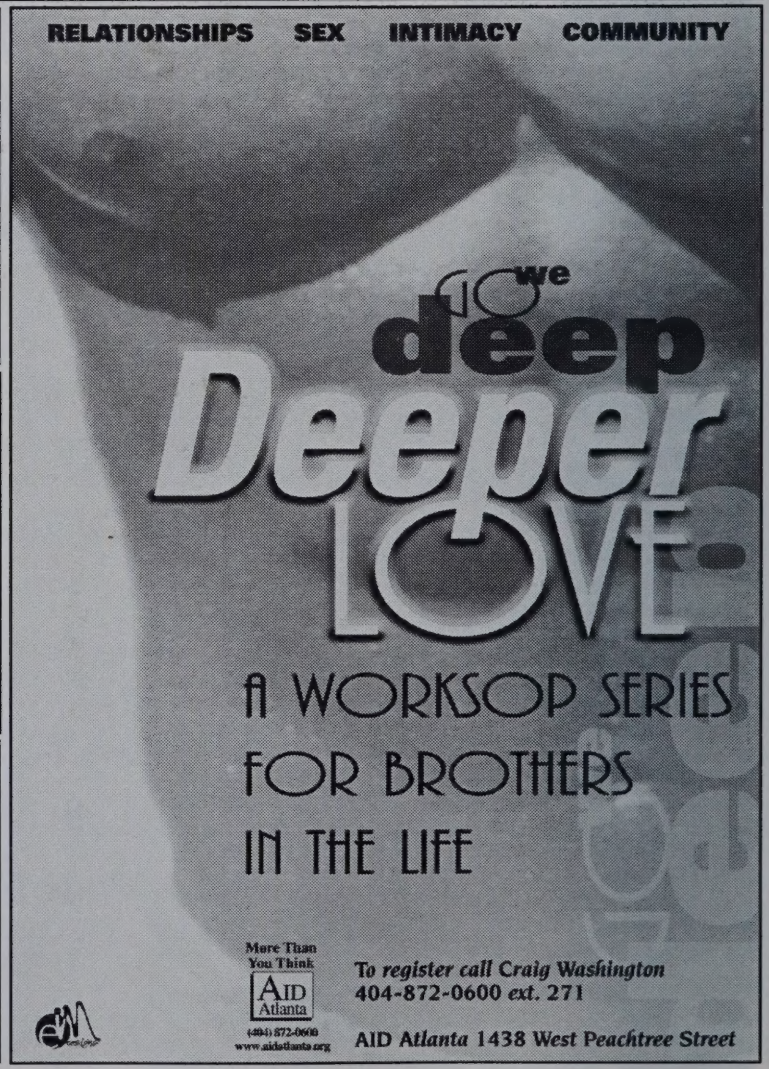

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

March 1999
Vol. 3
No. 3

2ND READ

for brothers · about brothers

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2ND SAY

a message from our CHAIR

robert mathis THE YEAR IN REVIEW

March is here already. It marks the final month of office for the current officers of SECOND SUNDAY with the election of new officers taking place March 28th. This will be my last time addressing you in this space as Chair. I would like to utilize this time to review how the organization accomplished eight (8) of its ten (10) goals for the period marking April 1998 - March 1999, and to say thanks to a few brothers who have been instrumental in my tenure as Chair.

First, we achieved the following eight (8) goals:

1) **Strategic planning meeting.** This was accomplished in June when SECOND SUNDAY's leadership met to assess the state of the organization and to build consensus around committee roles and responsibilities. This meeting was the precursor to the movement to revise SECOND SUNDAY's organizational structure.

2) **Reintroduction of the newsletter.** This was accomplished in August and continues to be one of SECOND SUNDAY's gems.

3) **Converting to financial software.** This was accomplished in August to accommodate SECOND SUNDAY's financial growth.

4) **Identifying and securing administrative meeting space.** This was completed in August and was necessary to centralize many of our meetings (Topics, Public Relations, Membership, My Brothaz Keeper, Finance, 40-Plus, etc.), and to make them more accessible to brothers in the community.

5) **Restructuring the managing body.** This was accomplished in October and made it possible for SECOND SUNDAY to downsize its managing body and create a Board of Directors with more accountability.

6) **Filling Executive Committee vacancies.** This was completed in November and marked the first time since March 1998 that all of the positions were filled.

7) **Centralizing mail access.** This was completed in December and allows Board members the opportunity to access SECOND SUNDAY's mailbox.

8) **Revising bylaws in preparation for incorporation/501 (C-3) tax status.** This was completed in February when the bylaws were unanimously approved by the membership. My last 2ND SAY article was exclusively devoted to the proposed bylaws and I asked you to come out to vote on them. I appreciated the discussion around this document at the Membership meeting and was encouraged by the vote.

The two (2) unmet goals were around financial matters, specifically policies and procedures to ensure compliance with governmental regulations and initiatives which increase revenue sources. These goals will continue to be priorities of the Board of Directors and will no doubt be major parts of the goals of the incoming Officers.

I want to also thank those who helped to put these initiatives into place. The aforementioned goals started out as ideas and reminds me of the saying: **Ideas are a dime a doze. People who put them into action are priceless.** Yes, there were a number of brothers who were responsible for putting these ideas into action. Much appreciation for your working toward completing all 10 of our goals, particularly the contributions of the brothers encompassing last year's Steering Committee and the current Board of Directors. I thank you for your devotion and hard work. You are priceless!! I appreciate the sacrifices.

Serving as your first Chair has been exciting and challenging. I want to thank the membership for allowing me the privilege of serving you in a very special way. To the Board of Directors, I can only say that your patience and understanding made my job easier. To the other Executive Committee members, it has been a long ride and on some level has touched us in ways to which only our souls can bear witness. Craig, thanks for your love and support. I thank you for not abandoning me. You are special. Tim, the organization continues to see only a small portion of how truly exciting you are. Stay strong, my brother. And, Kirk, thanks for helping me to stay focussed and being aware of the bottom line. Peace, love and goodbye. ■

INSIDE *THIS ISSUE*

2 What We Say And What We Mean
3 Where Is The Love?
4 Our Common Bond: We As One
4 Breaking the Cycle: Alcohol And Drug Abuse / Dependence
6 "Ask Not What Your…"
7 Exploring Our Genealogy
8 "Thank You!"
9 So We're Not Doing A Rally Why?
9 B.W.M.T./Atlanta: Fact Or Fiction

2ND SAY

a message from our VICE-CHAIR

craig washington WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE MEAN

Closetspeak: (kloz'it spek). A language that conveys covert messages often within a casual style. This function enables the speaker to engage in intricate levels of denial about his internal struggles. Closetspeak is a universal language accessible to people from all walks of life!

Advisory: The reader is advised that the translations may not always apply. Admittedly the following list is biased by the writer's worldview!

Closetspeak (Edgar): "What I do in my bedroom is my business." Translation: "I have taken exquisite pains to maintain my level of discretion. It may seem elaborate to you but it has become second nature to me. I may be gay but I don't have to let the rest of the world know it. I remain silent or neutral when gay issues are discussed in my presence. I tend to use neutral pronouns when referring to men I date (i.e., "they" for "he"; or "I'm attracted to this type of 'Person'"). I am terrified of being clocked, although I don't like to admit that. There can be real negative consequences to being "out" and I don't want to risk it. I prefer to present my case as if my secrecy is a casual option. It is hard to acknowledge the amount of energy I expend "fooling" people when they probably already know. I don't need to spend too much time on it though. After all…

Closetspeak (Malik): "There's more to me than being Gay." Translation: If only my gayness were a limb that I could chop off. I am uncomfortable with gay activists who draw attention to their gay identity because they rock the boat. That's why its necessary for me to state the obvious. I don't want people to concentrate on that dimension of me. I regard that part of myself with considerable disdain. It has brought about so much shame throughout my childhood. I believe that if I work hard and prove to be a productive citizen, that will make up for being "that way". But you know…

Closetspeak (Keith): "I may be gay but at least I'm not flamboyant." Translation: I trust that my masculinity will shield me from scorn. That's why I can only tolerate transgendered people if they are male-to-female and performing on a stage. As a child I saw what happened to the effeminate boys. A litany of epithets followed "Curtis" across the playground -- punk, faggot, sissy, homo. It didn't matter that "Tyrone" was humping on boys too. When Curtis walked by everybody including Tyrone would call him out. I don't wanna go out like that. As long as I act like a "man", everything will be cool. I can't see how I am playing myself. I say to myself that I'm gay and that's okay. I can use the "Curtises" to feel more normal by comparison. I can't recognize how even my issues have issues! Yeah, I'm still a man! I don't

(continued on page 3)

2ND READ

Darrol C. De Andre
Publisher/Director, Public Relations

Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.
Editor/Assoc. Director, Public Relations

Robert Mathis
Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Craig Washington
Vice-Chair, SECOND SUNDAY

Contributing Writers
Darryl!
Kenneth A. Johnson
Gregory Cosby
Steven Samuels

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2ND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

1999 MARCH 1999

12 **B.G.M.T. & 2ND SUNDAY 2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSION**
Friday, MARCH 12, 1999 • 11:00 PM
Club Fusion, 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA

14 **2ND SUNDAY Discussion Meeting "ADDICTIONS -- Breaking The Cycle"**
Sunday, MARCH 14, 1999 • 6:30 PM
LAMBDA CENTER
823 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA

16 **SECOND SUNDAY's BOOK CLUB "WHAT LOOKS LIKE CRAZY..." by Pearl Cleage**
Tuesday, MARCH 16, 1999 • 7:30 PM
OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA

26 **"BROTHAS" BOWLING NIGHT**
Friday, MARCH 26, 1999 • 11:00 p.m. - Until
EXPRESS BOWLING LANES
1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta, GA
(404) 874-5703

2ND THOUGHT

from the EDITOR'S desk

richard s. moultrie, jr. WHERE IS THE LOVE?

Electing officers for SECOND SUNDAY often proves to be an anxious time since members rarely clamor for the positions. However, this year's time for elections finds the organization in an outright crisis! Currently only one member has agreed to run for an office -- that being the position of Secretary. Consequently, the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer remain open with no current prospects for qualified candidates. Brothers, why must it be this way? Where is the love for OUR organization? Where is the commitment?

It is selfish for SECOND SUNDAY members and those who attend our regular meetings to relegate the business operation of the organization to a small core of devoted brothers. It is unfair to expect SECOND SUNDAY to continually recycle the same members who serve in office, thereby requiring the same members to occupy different leadership roles. It is shortsighted to presume and assume that SECOND SUNDAY can survive without a diverse pool of ideas and creativity from which to engineer its expansion.

Too frequently, moreover, the work done by officers and in our committees must be performed by the same members. Too frequently, the same individuals contribute articles for publication in this newsletter. And too frequently, those attending our monthly meetings return nothing to the organization in terms of service.

For these reasons, many officers begrudgingly continue to serve in positions despite their desire to contribute to the organization in different capacities. This results in a good deal of burn-out among those members, and sometimes, their withdrawal from SECOND SUNDAY altogether. This is a shame -- both because it robs the organization of some of its most active members; and because it is a circumstance that can be avoided if more brothers assume leadership responsibility.

Listen brothers, while it does not hurt to preach about achieving lofty goals like empowerment and cohesion for the African-American, gay community, it does not help either; unless those words are buttressed by committed action, those calls for activism ring hollow. We need you brothers to do more than show up on the second Sunday of each month to look cute, complain, and/or make speeches. Accept nomination to an office or volunteer on a committee. It is time to walk the talk! ■

WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE MEAN, *continued from page 2...*

know why those queens choose to act that way. Yes, but...

Closetspeak (Gladys): "People should be able to live whatever lifestyle they choose." Translation: I cannot admit to my own homophobia. Although I consider myself a liberal thinker, I certainly don't support their lifestyle. That's why I call it "lifestyle" instead of sexual orientation. I believe that people choose to live and be this way. I have to believe it's a choice -- if not, then I would have to accept it as a natural state of being. I would have to equate homosexuality with the same legitimacy as my heterosexual experience. I just can't go there. Lately they've been getting out of hand. You would think they were an oppressed minority. After all...

Closetspeak (Marvus): "You cannot compare being Black to being gay." Translation: I cannot see how different identity oppressions are all related to the common root of patriarchal domination that sustains racism, classism, sexism, homophobia and erotophobia (fear of the erotic). I refuse to believe that despite differences between gayness and Blackness, both identities are targeted with social and individual assaults. All I can see is how my Blackness has won me the distinction of being the ultimate nigger. To acknowledge the similarity between racism and homo-hatred is too far ahead and I don't want to stretch that far. I get pleasure from my comfort zone and power from my victim status. No matter how bad your blues are, they ain't like mine. I have cultivated my wounds so well. Even though in some cases I am accepted by white folk, because...

Closetspeak (Lesley): "When I see Pamela, I don't see an African-American woman, I see a woman!" Translation: I cannot acknowledge my own covert racism. I certainly don't see myself as a racist. I've done a lot of work to see African-American people not as "black" but as "human". That's because on some level I cannot reconcile the two concepts. In order to really see their humanity I have to not see their Blackness. That way I can erase my fear of Black people without ever having to face it. That's why I strive for a "color-blind" society. I have a stigmatism of the soul and I see "differences" as "divisions". But if I can remain unsighted then I never have to deal with my baggage; or the fact that Pamela is not only a Black woman she is a lesbian. That's okay, cause at least she is still feminine. You know...

Closetspeak (Cinque): "Because I like the lesbians that are still ladies, you know the lipstick lesbians... they are so fierce!" Translation: Lesbians are okay with me as long as they present a specific non-threatening image of womanhood. Even though I am a gay man, and in many ways I defy the codes of appropriate sexual orientation and gender behavior, I prefer lesbians to conform to that model. Because of my identity, I assume that I of course could not be sexist. Women that have masculine energy are breaking the rules I have internalized, even though I am very "out". I don't even realize that we as gay men can accept more kinds of female images besides the typical hetero-male accepted type. Ultra-femme icons and butch men who look like trade are the bomb. Dreadlocked or baldheaded dykes just would not work 'cause they could not work the runway. Unless of course, a powerful fashion mogul from Milan declared them en vogue. I mean I love Meshell Ndege-what's-her-name but she's no Whitney. She's so dykey. I just don't see her. I just don't see... ■

a LETTER to the editor

darryl! OUR COMMON BOND: WE AS ONE

As we look to the coming of the millenium our challenge should be to not carry with us pain from the past as sword and shield for our future. It is time for us to really do the work of living and being together. The differences that exist among us should be seen as opportunities to knit ourselves closer together -- not distance ourselves from each other. These seeming differences are in actuality the make up of our diversity. What we must find is our common bond.

Let all the people who have been marginalized, ostracized, ridiculed, condemned, and shunned now see themselves as ***valued, important, connected, revered, uplifted, and respected***. But those who have been in the former light must guard the front lines so that no one is mistreated again. We cannot continue to master the lessons of the "masters" from our former days of slavery. There is a well known story of the origins of slavery that teaches people how to create the perfect slave mentality. It involves instituting as many divisions between people as can be imagined: men against womyn, parents against children, old against young, light against dark, strong against the weak, healthy against the sick, rich against poor, educated against the unlearned, tribe against tribe, people against people, spirit against spirit, and so on and so on and so on.....

Beloved, because we know this is what was intended for us, we must fight with every ounce of our being NOT to continue this ill-gained pattern of thinking and acting (reacting). We must seek out, from within ourselves, every fiber of bigotry and supplant them with cords of truth and love. We must then assist each other to communally stamp out all the residue of hate that was so craftily and deceptively instilled in our very psyche and which still works against us at every turn.

Challenge yourself to consider and reconsider -- when you find yourself not getting along, distrusting others, feeling insecure, generally not liking someone, or disregarding another, consider whether your attitude is the result of a genuine experience you had with this person (group) or whether you are reacting out of some unseen force that is impacting your ability to communicate and connect? Once you have the answer then work through it. It may be that the cause for the discord is genuine but any problem can be corrected, any disconnection can be reconnected, any breach can be mended. You have to want it. You have to be willing to do the work that it takes to get through the personalities, pain, or danger. We MUST stop seeing each other as the enemy and see ourselves as One. We must begin to realize the power of WE AS ONE. United, indivisible, unconquerable, and inseparable are we. WE AS ONE. Imagine the Power. Imagine the Love. Imagine the Future.

OUR COMMON BOND: WE AS ONE!

Peace, Beloved. ■

2ND FORUM

TOPIC of the MONTH

robert mathis BREAKING THE CYCLE: ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE/DEPENDANCE

"Can I drink once a week or even once every two weeks and still be considered an alcoholic?" "Can a person who uses drugs once a month abuse drugs?" "How do you know when you are being affected by drugs?" "If I smoke one joint a week does that mean I have a problem with drugs?" "What's the difference between abusing drugs and being addicted?" These and other questions will be addressed at the next 2ND SUNDAY meeting as we discuss the topic: **Breaking the Cycle: Alcohol and Drug Abuse/Dependence**.

Alcohol and drug abuse are a serious problem in our community. They are also problems we continue to deny as a community. There are a number of brothers who have serious alcohol and/or drug issues but no one says anything to them. We all know many of these brothers. Some of them are community workers. Others are close friends. Still others are family members. All of them show signs of a struggle; one that will, if they continue the abuse, eventually overcome them, causing a tremendous amount of pain to all those around them. Brothers who struggle with using alcohol and drugs are more apt to have unprotected sex, therefore increasing their risk of infection. They are more apt to have a low tolerance for pain and tend to be retarded in their emotional development, making it more difficult for them to establish intimate relationships with others.

This presentation will begin to address some of the basic issues surrounding the problem of alcohol and drug abuse/ dependence. Participants are expected to learn five (5) points:

1. The types of drugs commonly abused;
2. The definition of abuse and addiction;
3. How to recognize the symptoms of abuse and addiction;
4. How alcohol and drugs have affected brothers; and
5. Interventions that help.

Knowing the first four points will prove to be particularly useful in making interventions for the purpose of helping our brothers. Breaking the cycle is about helping these brothers to break away from their chemical prisons. It is about taking individual responsibility in confronting the denial that is so rampant within ourselves. Breaking the cycle is not about stopping our brothers from abusing chemicals. It is more about making us more aware of how important it is for them to be more accountable for their actions. ■

2ND SUNDAY

DISCUSSION MEETING

FOR SAME-GENDER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

!! ADDICTIONS !!

BREAKING THE CYCLE:

ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE / DEPENDENCE

Are addictions getting in the way of your life?

How do you know if you are being affected by drugs?

What's the difference between abusing drugs and being addicted?

Join our discussion as we identify and recognize the symptoms of abuse and addiction, and ways to diffuse their hold on your life.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1999

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Lambda Center

828 West Peachtree Street • Atlanta, GA

Admission: 2ND SUNDAY Members FREE • Non-members $3.00

SECOND SUNDAY NEWS

kenneth a. johnson "ASK NOT WHAT YOUR..."

Now is the time to step up to the plate and run this organization! If the Conference weekend proved anything, it proved that we can be about business, and I believe SECOND SUNDAY is the business we should be about!

If you weren't present for our February meeting, then you won't recognize these words I shared in a voice raspy from an overly enthusiastic weekend of networking, socializing, and learning with my brothers and sisters at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's annual conference in Atlanta. If you were present, then I pray these words still reverberate in your memory and will urge you to consider a SECOND SUNDAY leadership position.

At our membership meeting at month's end, we will elect our organization's leadership for the next year. In order to do that, we must have a slate of viable candidates to elect. It's not too late. A statement of interest introducing yourself, providing a "gay resume" of information, and expressing your vision for SECOND SUNDAY should be sent to me as soon as possible. The Nominations and Elections committee will arrange to meet with you for a "get acquainted" interview prior to the March general membership meeting and election. I can be reached at **(404) 355-5739** or via e-mail at **Elections@SecondSunday.org**.

2ND NEWS

I leave you with the final thought I shared at the February meeting--

Instead of creating excuses for why you can't be an officer, use that same energy to think of how you can make it happen and do it! ■

Do you have interesting and relevant letters and articles that you want others to read? The Editor and Publishers of **2ND READ** encourage you, our fellow members of SECOND SUNDAY and readers, to share your thoughts and opinions with us.

Send correspondence to:

2ND READ
c/o SECOND SUNDAY
Post Office Box 78705
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-2705

E-mail:
PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Phone:
(770) 435-5860

Fax:
(770) 435-1399

2ND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Quarterly Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1999 • 6:30 PM

LAMBDA CENTER
828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta

STACEY BLAKE, MSW, LCSW

psychotherapist

individuals • couples • family • and group therapy

404-627-7927

This Space is Reserved for YOU -- to Advertise your Goods or Services.

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CALL 770.435.5860

INSIDE MEN 40-PLUS

gregory cosby EXPLORING OUR GENEALOGY

Our ancestors' presence did not pass away with them when they died. Their life's work still impacts our lives. Our ancestors still guide, protect and help us in today's world. If we look closely at their struggle we will learn lessons that they left behind. Their lessons help us, their descendants, reap the harvest of their journey here on earth.

I will never forget my first visit to Locum, North Carolina. It was seven years ago. During the visit, my cousin took me to the gravesite of my great-grandparents. Their graves were located on the plantation where they served as slaves.

I finished the first stage of a genealogy project last year. I traced my ancestors back to the late 1700's. On Sunday, March 28, 1999, I will share with the members of 40-Plus my experience in researching my family's past.

Black genealogy can be difficult at times. I will give helpful tips on how you can get started on your search for your ancestors. We will explore resources and material that can be found here in Atlanta. Also, we will discuss the reason why so many people are researching at this time. Please bring information, stories and questions about your family. Hope to see you there. ■

40-PLUS

JOIN US FOR OUR MARCH DISCUSSION MEETING

"AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGY: HOW TO EXPLORE YOUR PAST AND THE TOOLS NEEDED TO DO IT"

Sunday, March 28, 1999

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Atlanta Lambda Center, 2nd Floor
828 West Peachtree Street

This monthly forum examines the issues important to men approaching forty years of age and older.

The meetings are open to Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent over the age of thirty-five.

The meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Come Join the Discussion!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(404) 325-7321

2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

darryl! "THANK YOU!"

A simple phrase not often heard. Thank You's go a long way in easing tensions and opening doors that otherwise might close or SHUT in our faces. As I have been around in the community the last couple of years I've noticed that there are often a few unthanked people doing so much to make our lives better. I thought it was time to honor them. Think about the circles you travel in...someone took the time to organize, or at the very least set in motion, the activity or event you are involved in.

Think back on the last few community events you attended -- who made it happen? Even going out to a club involves someone doing some work to make it possible. Yes, clubs don't mind taking your money (so you can have a good time) but what would you do if those places did not exist? Without **SECOND SUNDAY, ITLA, Folami, Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta, Circle of Love, Brothers Back 2 Back, Friends For Life, Zami, Conscious Connections, My Brothaz Keeper, Forty-Plus, Indigo Arts**, or **The Atlanta Lambda Center** what would you do, where would you go, where would you do what you do? Without the work of **BGMT, Fusion, Traxx, Loretta's, The Marquette Lounge, Sunshine Productions** and others what would you do instead? Without **Agape Inc., AESM, Sister Love, Outreach Inc., ARCA, Deeper Love, Womyn Loving Womyn, GEP**, and others where would you get the support and help that you need?

The people behind the scenes (and occasionally in front of the cameras) who make up these places and organizations are our community, let's take the time to appreciate them. In most cases these people are not thanked tangibly -- but Thank You goes a long way when money is not available. In fact, Thank You can make it all worth while. So call folk up: thank your friends, family, surrogate family, leaders, teachers, preachers. Thank your (supposed) enemies because they keep the fuel going that encourages you to go on and LIVE regardless of the circumstances or obstacles.

Lastly, it is not enough to suggest that you say thank you to others. I want to take this time to say Thank You to you as well. Over the last, almost three years, I have been embraced, supported, and encouraged as a part of this community. Many of you have laughed with me, some have cried with me, but all of you have challenged me to live up to my own potential. I want you to know that I appreciate your support for the work that is being done in the community.

Last year was a tremendously powerful year. I experienced extreme trauma and the loss of several close friends and brothers. I experienced the shifting of my familial relationships and the loss of innocence, as it relates to my family. Despite those challenges it was one of the most rewarding years, as well. The work of **Unity** flourished, with **AID Atlanta** and **Positive Impact** we inaugurated Friends For Life, and to top it off you joined with **ITLA** and me to make ***Atlanta's Black LBGT Pride Celebration*** the most successful, ever. Through all of this you have helped support the work that has built strong institutions for our community from **SECOND SUNDAY** to **ITLA**, from **Unity** to **Friends For Life** you have made the difference.

Sometimes, I think, those of us who "do the work" forget that if it were not for you participating and supporting there would be no work. So I want to pause, in this early part of the year... before you get asked for any more money, before you are asked to take on new leadership roles, before you are asked to support... or sacrifice... simply to say "THANK YOU". From me to all of you. Thank you for who you are and who you are becoming. Thank you for letting me be a part of you. Thank You!

Peace and Blessings. Nguzo Saba, 24/7. ■

Darryl! is Executive Director of In The Life Atlanta, Inc. and an active member of SECOND SUNDAY.

2ND SUNDAY
BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT
sponsored by SECOND SUNDAY

my BROTHAZ keeper

PRESENTING

Discussion and support for Brothaz in the life (same sex attracted Black Men) 24 and younger

A confidential meeting to talk about what's real and to create a supportive environment

- Your confidentiality will be respected
- Every 3rd Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Atlanta Lambda Center
  828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208

Keiron Williams, Co-Coordinator

Kevin Bynes, Co-Coordinator

For more information contact: 404-325-7321

duncan teague SO WE'RE NOT DOING A RALLY. WHY?

Near the end of last year, I got an e-mail from a friend and fellow leader in the Atlanta Afriqueer community that disturbed me. He suggested that we not do the Bayard Rustin Rally the Monday of the King Holiday as we had the last three years. We, the African-American queer contingent, began a tradition of rallying, then walking down Peachtree in the gay contingent of the March. I considered the Bayard Rustin Rally a successful public event that required some work, but not as much as the other larger events the African-American lesbian and gay folk put on here in Atlanta. I also thought there was a bias developing around not doing public events and that really got under my very "out-focused" skin. Lastly, I wondered if we were being hypocritical by doing something that was just about the Afriqueer community in a space not as "out" as Peachtree Street and by calling it an event to honor one so brave and forthright as Bayard Rustin.

Well, we did have an event that was not on the street and it was just as "out" as the rally ever was. We did it in a way that cared for the participants and organizers in ways that I had not witnessed very often in our work or play. And this event probably spoke so much more to the skill organizing that was a hallmark of Bayard Rustin's intelligence and values, especially his legacy of organizing the Black folk who attended the 1963 March on Washington. Mr. Rustin was largely responsible for the successful execution of that day's events. He led the prior organizing, all the while as a very known homosexual man, even out to his colleague and friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King even defended his role in the march when others wanted him sacrificed for the sake of their sensibilities and homophobia.

Our event, The Evening of Healing and Reconciliation, was put together with a gathering of the "who does what" in our Atlanta community among Black gays and lesbians. (I did not include transgendered folk in this group because we failed to take the necessary steps to involve that part of our community; to our credit, it was noted and discussed.) If I name names then I may get into a world of trouble so I will list affiliations. Leaders from the following groups were present at least during some of the times we met if not always: Folami, SECOND SUNDAY (Board, Co-Chairs, Topics Committee, previous leadership), ADODI Muse, The Atlanta Host Committee for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, Deeper Love Project of AID Atlanta, Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta, and Brothers Back-2-Back, to name a few. The planning, processing and execution of the event was truly representative of the organized Black queers in the city. Yes, there were some groups not at the table, but not because of conscious omission. These days, that is miraculous. We came together, changed an established event, and put on an entirely new one successfully (maybe we did build the pyramids.)

I am most proud of our goal to put issues before this community of participants and to lead them in a process to prioritize the issues according to *their* desires. We, the organizers of the event, struggled with not coming into the room with a xeroxed agenda to impose on the attendees. This was the time for the people in the community to tell us what issues they felt were important. This was so monumental and I hope that the coverage the Southern Voice gave to the decisions that we made helped to show the significance of our coming together to do this. I was not shocked but surprised by the issues that rose to the fore of the process. I agree with all of them, though I may not be willing to work as hard on some of them as I would on others. The room was filled with about fifty-plus women and men which was very heart warming and made for an evening of which we can be proud. (The food was excellent also. Having good food is a wonderful organizing tool.) We set a workable list of priority issues on paper in a friendly and productive manner.

We ended the two-hour-plus process identifying the following priority issues of the community: 1) working to **ensure we have space** that we can own and use for our efforts; 2) working on the issues surrounding the community and **The Black Church**; and 3) working on **Internalized Homophobia**. What made these three rise to the top of the ten that we considered? A simple democratic process. These were the three that most people felt strongly about. But it did not stop there; that was the icing on the activist cake. We asked the participants to take these issues back to their organizations and strategize around them. In six months we will look at what we have done regarding all three of these issues. It will be interesting to see what we have done by June 30, 1999. ■

steven samuels B.W.M.T./ATLANTA: FACT OR FICTION

Over the years I've heard many uninformed ideas about the group and they seem to reoccur to people frequently ...especially to those who never attend any of our events or only attend one or two events. In the following notes I will try to separate fact from fiction about Black & White Men Together:

I) **The name means that one must be in a relationship or prefer dating people of another "race".** That's FALSE! Please read the statement of purpose. The only race we are concerned with at BWMT is the HUMAN RACE... black, white, red, yellow, male, female and the occasional extra-terrestrial!

II) **BWMT is a sex club.** FALSE! Our activities are social, cultural, recreational, educational and political... designed to support our members' interests. We like sex. You might find it. But it's not our party.

III) **BWMT is for MEN only.** FALSE!

IV) **BWMT is for couples only.** FALSE!

V) **"I get hit on too much/too little at BWMT functions."** Well, some people will be unhappy regardless. I've been "hit-on" at Kroger's and ignored in gay bars, so that's just everyday life. Could it be that you are the ONE that's MOST RESPONSIBLE for what happens to YOU in YOUR SOCIAL LIFE?

VI) **Why don't you change the name to include everyone?** TRADITION!!! We like that our roots began in fighting black/white racism in AMERICA, specifically the south. -- Georgia and ATLANTA. We frankly see that this battle has not yet ended. There are still too many Archie bunkers and George Jefferson's in this country and NOT ENOUGH Weezie Jefferson's and Edith Bunkers! We exclude no one and accept everyone!

VII) **"I don't date interracially, but want to support my friend(s) who do.** Great! If you like people, you'll like BWMT.

VIII) **"I'm afraid of what my family/friends/co-workers might think if I participate in BWMT activities."** Well maybe you should invite them to accompany you. It sounds like they need a little fresh air in those closed minds!

IX) **"There are too many stereotypes about interracial dating."** There you go again, worrying about what some nameless faceless people think. Who cares? When you meet and interact with other people you'll find that there are all types. Stereotypes are one groups' superficial characterizations of another group, used to reinforce ostracism of that people. Do you believe the stereotypes that Republicans and Fundamentalist Christians use against gays? Do you believe that every other woman/man/black/white/Jew/Christian/gay/straight/brother/sister/father/mother is just like their other group mates? NO? I didn't think so!

X) **"BWMT doesn't do the activities that I like to do."** Well, get off your butt and help us organize those activities! If you like to just sit still and be entertained, there is

(continued on page 10)

2ND CALL

CALL TYRONE

what's on your mind?

Hello Tyrone:

My friend, Carson, began dating a white guy recently and I am very upset with him as a result. Now, Carson is my boy. We go way back -- to high school, in fact. I talked to him about this guy he is seeing (his name is Jonathan). I told Carson that I believe that Jonathan is probably interested in him because of "Mandingo fever." I told Carson that as a dark-skinned, muscular brother, white guys are always going to be on his tip for this reason. I realize that my fears for Carson's welfare in this situation may be premature, but he's my best friend and I do not want him to be hurt. Should I continue to express my concerns or just let it go and let it flow?

--True Blue

Yo Blue:

My first question to you (and I have several) is this: Is Carson happy? Has Carson said anything to suggest to you that Jonathan's intentions are not honorable? What is your evidence that Jonathan intends any of the ominous objectives you imagine? I appreciate that you love Carson very much, and desire the best for him. But listen, love is also about trust. So love Carson enough to trust him to know when or if his interaction with Jonathan is no longer healthy for him.

Also, I noticed that you did not indicate that Carson dates white men exclusively. Obviously, if Carson appeared to have difficulty appreciating men who look like himself, your concerns for his emotional well-being might be justified. In Carson's case, however, it seems -- from the information you provided -- that your "boy" deserves more credit than you are currently giving him. Chill out, Blue, and provide Carson with the kind of support that he should be able to expect from a friend. Lastly, I would venture to guess that Carson's physical attributes attract the attention of white, black, yellow and red folk alike! ■

Tyrone** is interested in hearing what's on your mind, and helping you deal with the issues of life. Write him at **Second Sunday**, Attn.: **2ND READ**, Post Office Box 310, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. Or e-mail him at **PublicRelations@SecondSunday.org

Please note that these responses are not prepared by a professional staff, and the responses provided in this column are intended for entertainment purposes only.

B.W.M.T./ATLANTA, *continued from page 9...*

usually a TV or radio at most of our functions, and you're welcomed to it! But unfortunately the other people having fun around you may disturb your remote controlled world. You might prefer to stay at home anyway. You can be a King or Queen of your own castle, but at our functions the princes and princesses all party together!

XI) **"I don't drink, am in AA, etc...."** There are many that share your concerns in our group and there is no pressure to do anything that you are uncomfortable with. Food, talk, singing, dancing, joking, fun, etc. predominate at our events. We've always said that BWMT is a great alternative to dim lit, loud, over-priced bars. BWMT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT!

XII) **"I met so-and-so at BWMT and don't like so-and-so, blah, blah, blah..."** Cant help you there. Are you going to let one or two people keep you away from all the wonderful people you can meet at BWMT? Well then you may be deprived of many good experiences in life. Let me share with you a couple of phrases I've found useful each time I've used them: #1. "NO". #2. "GET LOST". ■

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

2ND SUNDAY

PROUD!
GIFTED!
BLACK!

FOR SAME-GENGER-LOVING MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
OR JOIN TODAY
CALL (404) 325-7321 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHERE THE BOYZ ARE 1999

...AND THE MENZ, TOO.

BE THERE!!

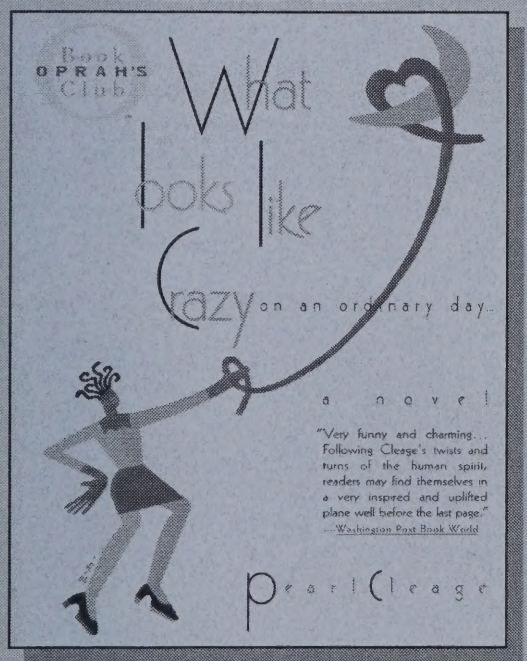
2ND SUNDAY

BROTHERS SPEAKING OUT

SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

MARCH Book Pic:
"What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day"
by Pearl Cleage
-- Avon Books $12.00 --


Book
OPRAH'S
Club
What
looks like
crazy on an ordinary day
a novel
"Very funny and charming... Following Cleage's twists and turns of the human spirit, readers may find themselves in a very inspired and uplifted place well before the last page."
—Washington Post Book World
Pearl Cleage

March 16, 1999
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
at OUTWRITE Bookstore & Coffeehouse

Join your Brothers of SECOND SUNDAY for the next Meeting of the SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB to discuss Pearl Cleage's novel "What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day."

"Engrossing, entertaining... [a] wryly observant, moving tale... WHAT LOOKS LIKE CRAZY is a smart novel that will have readers laughing in recognition of the foibles of human nature as it lays bare its characters' -- and our own -- assumptions about class, sexuality, and love in unexpected and thoroughly gratifying ways."
--Atlanta Journal-Constitution

After a decade of elegant pleasures and luxe living among the Atlanta brothers and sisters with the best clothes and biggest dreams, Ava Johnson has temporarily returned home to Idlewild -- her fabulous career and power plans smashed to bits by cold reality. But what she imagines is the end is, instead, a beginning. Because, in the ten-plus years since Ava left, all the problems of the big city have come to roost in the sleepy North Michigan community whose ordinariness once drove her away; and she cannot turn her back on friends and family who sorely need her in the face of impending trouble and tragedy. Besides which, that one unthinkable, unmistakable thing is now happening to her: Ava Johnson is falling in love.

Acclaimed playwright, essayist and columnist Pearl Cleage has created a world rich in character, human drama, and deep, compassionate understanding, in a remarkable debut novel that sizzles with sensuality, hums with gritty truth, and sings and crackles with life-affirming energy as it moves the reader to laughter and tears.

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DEARDRIA NESBITT
"BACK IN THE DAY"
Wednesday, March 10, 8pm

PENNY MICKELBURY
"WHERE TO CHOOSE"
Tuesday, March 30, 8pm

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March COMMUNITY CALENDAR 1999

Saturday, 3/06/99

7:30 p.m. BWMT/Atlanta hosts a Potluck at Mel & Ron's house. Meet the Men of the 1999 Champions Calendar, Stone Mountain, GA. Call (404) 292-7784 for directions and more info.

Friday, 3/12/99

11:00 p.m. 2ND FRIDAY @ CLUB FUSIONS. Party with the Men of SECOND SUNDAY and BLACK GAY MEN TOGETHER (BGMT) at Club Fusion, located at 550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Midtown Outlets, Atlanta.

Sunday, 3/14/99

6:30 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY DISCUSSION Meeting. Topic: "ADDICTIONS -- BREAKING THE CYCLE: ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE/DEPENDENCE. SECOND SUNDAY is a support organization for Same-Gender-Loving Men of African Descent. Monthly meetings are held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321

Sunday, 3/16/99

7:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB Meeting. Discussing Pearl Cleage's "What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day" at OutWrite Bookstore, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for more information.

Sunday, 3/21/99

6:30 p.m. MY BROTHAZ KEEPER Discussion and Support Group for Brothaz in the life 24 and younger, Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Suite 208, Atlanta. For more info call (404) 325-7321.

Friday, 3/26/99

11:030 p.m. 2ND SUNDAY's "BROTHAS BOWLING NIGHT" Join your brothers for a night of bowling at Express Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

Sunday, 2/28/99

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 40-PLUS Discussion Group Meeting; open to same-gender-loving Men of African Descent. This month's topic: "Still Together After All These Years" Held at the Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree, Atlanta. Call (404) 325-7321 for info.

Sunday, 3/28/99

6:30 p.m. SECOND SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP Meeting, to be held at The Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta. For more information call (404) 325-7321

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